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Police strike at football hooligans



An officer breaks into a house early yesterday

By STEWART TENDLER, PAUL WILKINSON AND JOHN GOODBODY

NORTHUMBRIA Police yesterday struck the opening blow against football hooligans planning to disrupt Euro 96, with raids leading to 19 arrests and the seizure of weapons and inflammatory literature. Other police forces will carry out similar operations in the next few weeks after months of intelligence-gathering and analysis of violence during last season's football matches.

Northumbria Police sent 120 officers, including some wearing riot equipment and bullet-proof vests, to break into the homes of suspects at dawn. The addresses targeted in Operation Harvest were chosen after officers studied closed circuit television film of rampaging hooligans in Newcastle city centre on May 5, after Newcastle United's match with Tottenham Hotspur for the Premier League championship.

Newcastle is one of eight venues for games in the three-week competition, which starts in a fortnight and will be the biggest sporting event held in Britain since the World Cup in 1966. Other matches are being played in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham and Leeds.

Over the past 18 months, police have been building up intelligence dossiers on gangs of hooligans throughout Britain and targeting known leaders. The intelligence operations are aimed at identifying which games hooligans are likely to pick for confrontations and how they are likely to get to the venues.

The police strategy, agreed after months of discussions, will focus on trying to block potential trouble-makers before the matches start. Chief constables are determined to prevent city centres, railway stations and motorway service stations being turned into battlegrounds. Police intelligence suggests that many of the foreign fans planning to attend the championship are not looking for trouble. The danger from right-wing xenophobic groups is also being played down: officers

fear that the main threat could come from British gangs who will seize any opportunity to pick fights. Among the items seized yesterday were calling cards prepared by one Newcastle gang, which would have been left with victims after they had been attacked. As officers sifted through the seized material, Superintendent Peter Durham, the officer in charge of policing matches at Newcastle United's St James' Park ground, issued a warning that more arrests would follow.

Mr Durham said a publicity drive would be launched next week with pictures of a further 150 suspects involved in the violence earlier this month. He said that magistrates would also be urged to remand in custody those brought before the courts. If bail is given, police want defendants to be banned from going into Newcastle while the tournament takes place.

Employers to get crime check on job applicants

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS are to have access to job applicants' criminal records under proposals to be outlined in a White Paper next month aimed at providing greater protection to the public. The far-reaching plans, which will be announced during a high profile "law and order" week, include a proposal to set up an independent agency which would manage access to police criminal records.

Under Michael Howard's proposals separate categories of employer would be entitled to different levels of information about the criminal careers of prospective employees. Employers in the most sensitive areas such as nursing homes, banks and accountants would be able to get a full criminal records check, perhaps including details of offences committed in the distant past.

The Home Office has also suggested that all other employers should be able to ask a job applicant to present a printout from the national computer showing whether they have a criminal record. Details of the criminal records of about seven million people are held on a new computer system, Phoenix, at Scotland Yard. About 900,000 checks are carried out by the police every year.

Mr Howard is planning to widen the range of employers who can have access to a job applicant's criminal record, including spent convictions for those applying for jobs in the most sensitive areas. David Maclean, a junior Home Office minister, last year outlined during a Commons debate the Government's thinking in the sensitive area of vetting. He said: "We believe a system of pre-employment checks is needed that is more accessible and more open, and will meet the needs of employers and other organisations who need to employ people in positions of trust."

Statutory authorities involving work with children such as social services and education departments can now carry out checks on potential employees but the Government wants to extend the categories of employer entitled to carry out a "full vetting check". It is expected that full vetting checks would be extended to dentists, osteopaths, nursing home managers, accountants, lawyers, bank and building society managers, and even firefighters.

The proposals will alarm civil liberties groups and organisations working to resettle offenders which will argue that such a huge extension of vetting will exclude tens of thousands of people from employment. As well as giving employers access to records held on Phoenix, Mr Howard is planning a consultation paper on setting up a national register of convicted paedophiles.



The Chelsea Flower Show ended with sales of icecream lower than last year and sales of tea and coffee up sharply. Pages 4 and 22, Gardening, Weekend pages 4, 5

Major takes day trip to Bosnia

John Major went on a one-day trip to Bosnia to monitor the peace accord and to encourage British troops serving as part of the Nato-led implementation force. He was the first Western leader to visit the Bosnian Serb republic. **Page 12**

New Labour, Old Jokes — as gags get a Mandelson spin

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

PETER MANDELSON, ace spin doctor and scourge of traditional socialists, has found a new notoriety among old Labour wags. The party's beleaguered election strategist is now the target of their jokes. As denials of a rift between Mr Mandelson and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, continue to reverberate in the corridors of Westminster, Mr Brown reportedly took a witty swipe at his colleague at the People's Palace Gallery on London's South Bank.

Referring to Mr Mandelson's alleged unpopularity in the party, Mr Brown told of the time when the Machiavellian figure asked him for 10p so he could use a pay phone to call a friend. "I gave him 20p so he

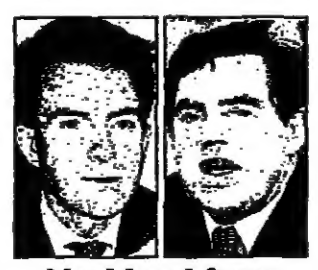
could call them all," Mr Brown reportedly said. The remark is the latest in a line of anecdotes about the MP for Hartlepool: one allegedly goes that he pointed at some mushy peas in a chip shop and asked for the avocado mousse. Mr Mandelson was also the subject of more mirth at the

Reforming judges take over at the top

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FUNDAMENTAL shake-up of both civil and criminal justice systems was heralded yesterday with the announcement that Sir Thomas Bingham is to be the next Lord Chief Justice, the most senior serving judge.

Sir Thomas's current post as Master of the Rolls, the country's top civil judge, goes to Lord Woolf, the law lord, ushering in the most radical partnership at the top of the judiciary in legal history. The appointments, which take effect on June 4, have been prompted by the enforced retirement of Lord Taylor of Gossforth, who has cancer, and come at a time of unprecedented tension between the Government and judiciary. But the changes — announced within 24 hours of



Mandelson, left, was butt of joke by Brown

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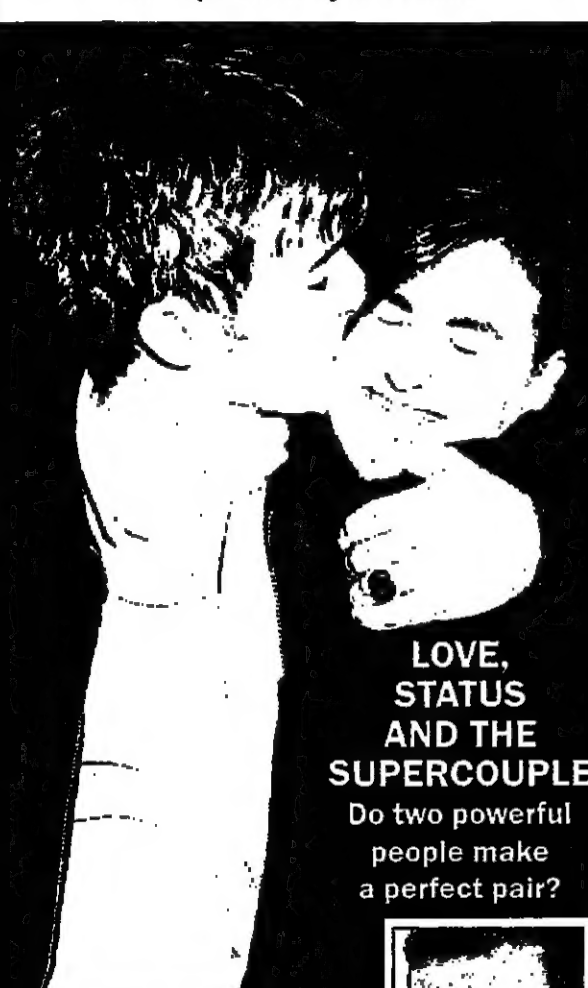
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England v Hong Kong XI
Andrew Longmore reports
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Alan Lee at Old Trafford



WIN A DAY AT THE RACES

Six pairs of VIP tickets to the Epsom Derby to be won



LOVE, STATUS AND THE SUPERCUPLE

Do two powerful people make a perfect pair?

PLUS: MATTHEW PARRIS, COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR



Hogg prepares to accept his fate

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

DOUGLAS HOGG admitted yesterday that he could lose his job over his handling of the beef crisis and hinted that he has offered to quit.

The embattled Agriculture Minister spoke as the Government formally launched its challenge to the European Union's ban on British beef exports, lodging appeal papers with the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Mr Hogg, who has seen John Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, take charge of the Government's response to the affair, has been under growing criticism from ministers. They say he has been insensitive in government discussions and in dealing with Britain's European partners.

He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* that

if he were dismissed he would accept his fate with "as much grace as I can muster". Asked whether he had offered to resign, he spurned the opportunity to deny Westminster reports and said only: "Ah, that's another matter, isn't it?" Neither Mr Hogg, his officials, nor Downing Street offered to clarify his remarks.

Whitehall sources disclosed that Mr Hogg has had personal talks with Mr Major since the BSE scare began and they speculated that he may have proffered his resignation at such a meeting. A senior source said: "Mr Hogg is very patriotic. He has a sense of duty. It would be fully in keeping for him to have offered to put his life on the line."

On the same programme Mr Hogg set out a step-by-step framework for lifting the European Union ban on British beef, admitting it could take a long time. Asked if the ban would still

be in force by the end of the year, he said: "I prefer not to speculate in those terms, but I do accept that we are looking at quite an extended programme. There is a lot of opposition and it is going to take time to break that opposition down."

He was looking for a relaxation of the ban on tallow, gelatine and semen at the next meeting of EU farm ministers on June 3 and 4, to be followed "within a few weeks" by young calves, exports to non-EU countries and beef from specialist, slow-maturing herds certified to be free of BSE.

Mr Hogg made no mention of any further cull of cattle, which is certain to be demanded by Brussels and other EU member states. He admitted that the BSE crisis had been difficult but denied that it had been mishandled.

He said: "If you are looking at the

main issues... I think we have done that which we have needed to do and I do not honestly think we have failed to do anything that we ought to have done."

Mr Hogg said that he was "not by instinct a quitter", adding: "This is a difficult and interesting job. I like doing it and I am very happy to go on doing it, but it is equally true that all ministers' jobs are at the disposal of the Prime Minister and if he feels that somebody else will do it better, I will accept his decision with as much grace as I can muster."

Brussels officials have said that a serious situation has been aggravated by Mr Hogg's decision not to give them warning of the impending scare and by his subsequent "undiplomatic" behaviour at meetings of farm ministers.

Sources close to government committees monitoring the crisis have

complained about what they call his graceless approach. Others call him a know-all who has failed to grasp the magnitude of Britain's isolation over the issue.

Paddy Ashdown yesterday put his party on the alert for a possible "beef election" in the autumn. In a letter to his local Yeovil party, the Liberal Democrat leader said that Conservatives were talking of going to the country on the issue of "Who runs Britain — Westminster or Brussels?"

Meanwhile it emerged yesterday that Jacques Santer, the European Commission president, has pulled out of a planned visit to Britain. He had been due to deliver a keynote speech on Britain's future in Europe. The Commission's UK office strongly denied the decision to abandon the three day visit next month was connected to Britain's non-co-operation policy with Europe.

Rifkind calls for more privatisation

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday called for the privatisation of the remaining publicly-owned industries and greater private provision of services such as health, education and welfare.

In a rare speech on domestic policy, the Foreign Secretary set out his stall to Conservative MPs in a way that confirmed their belief that he has marked moved to the Right and could be a prominent contender in a future party leadership contest.

Mr Rifkind, whose scepticism over a single European currency has already stamped his credentials among his party's Euro-skeptics, will have pleased the Right with his endorsement of an increasing role for private sector "social insurance" to curb the growth of social security spending and with his call for the Government to continue the fight against vested interests even at the risk of short-term unpopularity.

In what seemed to be backing for any future attempt to privatise the Post Office, the Foreign Secretary said that the few remaining industries that

were in public ownership needed to be placed where they belonged, in the private sector. Aides said he was particularly keen to see more of the defence service industries privatised.

Speaking in Edinburgh, Mr Rifkind said the Conservatives should always be seeking to reduce the burden of taxation when it was fiscally prudent.

"It should always be our assumption that in most areas, though not all, the private as opposed to the public provision of goods and services is preferable. So when we talk of targets for the public sector share of gross domestic product, as Conservatives we should always be examining how we can reduce the current figure further. It is a challenge that should never go away."

In the health service, he called for a "relentless" search for efficiency savings by cutting out "unnecessary" administration and ensuring doctors focus on proven treatments. Following the introduction of nursery vouchers, he said there had to be a further examination of the public and private mix in the provision of



Rifkind: his speech will have pleased the Right

education. There would have to be "an increasing role for private sector social insurance in an increasingly prosperous society."

Mr Rifkind's is one of a series of speeches recently by leading Tory figures which have inevitably been seen as reminders of their leadership status.

He agreed that there was a problem in presenting Conser-

vatism. Their policies could sound harsh and uncompromising while those of their opponents could sound cosy and reassuring. He said: "In power, Conservatives will always be vulnerable to the individual example. Our philosophy is to try to devolve power to individuals and that inevitably means that we must accept the risk of those individuals making mistakes."

Reforming judges

Continued from page 1
"We welcome the appointment of the new Lord Chief Justice and view it with polite interest."

The appointment of Sir Thomas, 62, is a break with tradition in that his legal career was not forged in the criminal courts. Both he and Lord Woolf are reformers, committed to a radical overhaul of the civil courts to cut delays and cost in the civil justice system, now being finalised by Lord Woolf at the end of a two-year inquiry.

As Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf will be ideally placed to oversee his own reforms, while Sir Thomas is expected to apply the same principles — more management of trials by judges, curbs on lawyers' long

speeches — in the criminal courts. Sir Thomas is also likely to look afresh at some of the shibboleths of the criminal justice system such as the circuit system by which High Court judges travel out to the regions.

Both men also strongly favour incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law.

On sentencing reforms, Sir Thomas has so far been measured, expressing some concern about minimum sentences but also sympathising with the aim behind the measures.

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Raid on hooligans

Continued from page 1
"Invasion of Belgium 1994", which is in reference to the clash between rival fans when Newcastle United went to Antwerp for the Uefa Cup.

Police are aware that The Gremlins' main rivals, the Seaburn Casuals, who follow Sunderland, have launched a recruitment drive for Euro 96, complete with a poster campaign to attract supporters in the city and from abroad.

Alan Oliver, Northumbria's Assistant Chief Constable, said that the campaign "indicates the level of organisation involved. While football violence has been largely eradicated from grounds, there is a feeling it still remains in the background. This confirms what we saw in Ireland [dur-

ing the Ireland v England match last year] and other international matches. The organisation is very worrying and something we are tackling."

Information from yesterday's raids will be analysed at the football intelligence unit at the National Criminal Intelligence Service's headquarters in south London. The unit will operate a 24-hour intelligence nerve centre from a special suite at Scotland Yard during Euro 96, manned by officers from 19 forces.

North Sea Ferries said yesterday that it would refuse to bring parties of foreign fans to England for the tournament. The firm runs four overnight ferries from Rotterdam and Zeebrugge to Hull.

Pheasants destroyed in fowl-pest outbreak

A pheasant-rearing farm in East Sussex is counting the cost of Britain's first outbreak of fowl pest (also known as Newcastle disease) for 12 years. A second outbreak is suspected and being investigated on a nearby chicken farm. The entire stock of 3,550 birds owned by Roger and Jane Gannard of the Sky Farm and Pheasantry at Broad Oak, near Heathfield, were destroyed by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture within hours of the highly contagious disease being confirmed.

An area within six miles of the farm has been quarantined for 21 days during which no movements of poultry or hatching eggs will be permitted. The restrictions extend to all birds in captivity, including racing pigeons.

Tunnel security switch

Eurotunnel is laying off 40 security guards at the entrance to the Channel Tunnel, regarded as one of Britain's top terrorism targets, and replacing them with secretaries and catering staff to save money. The guards, whose role includes searching cars and lorries entering the tunnel, are on fixed contracts that are not being renewed when they run out in September. The company, which owes its bankers £8 billion, said the replacement staff would have "the same selection procedure as anybody else and if they are not good enough they will not get the jobs".

Airport security held up

Almost eight years after the terrorist bomb over Lockerbie, few European airports have introduced security screenings of all hold bags, security experts at the European Civil Aviation Conference in London admitted. Only Britain and Belgium are near to ensuring that all hold baggage goes through an X-ray or explosive-detection machine on its way from the check-in desk to the hold of an aircraft. More than £400 million in advanced American-made equipment capable of detecting bombs or explosives will not be operational at all British airports until the end of the year.

Tube gets steamed up

The age of steam returns to the London Underground this weekend with a series of excursion between stations at the northern end of the Metropolitan Line from today until Monday. Two steam-hauled passenger trains will run from 10am to 7pm during the three days with half-hourly services between Watford and Amersham. Between Harrow and Moor Park enthusiasts can see two steam trains running parallel at the start of each day. Steam engines continued to be used on the Underground, mainly for shunting, until 1971, three years after they disappeared from British Rail.

Drug hope for acne

Scientists have grown acne in the test tube, opening the way to a cure for one of the worst scourges of adolescence. Using skin from middle-aged women discarded during facelift surgery, researchers at the University of Cambridge led by Dr Terence Kealey have demonstrated in the laboratory how the pores become clogged and inflamed, causing acne. Unilever, which funded the research published in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, has patented the process in the expectation that it will lead to a new designer drug for acne.

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Road rage thugs threaten man, 73, with petrol bomb

By Bill Frost

A TWICE wounded war veteran suffering from cancer was dragged from his car, beaten mercilessly and threatened with a petrol bomb during a "road rage" attack by three young men.

Ronald Francis, 73, waved his thanks when he was given the right of way by the driver of another vehicle, who apparently thought he had made an obscene gesture. After a chase, the old soldier, who fought with the 2nd Parachute Regiment during the Normandy landings and at Arnhem, was overtaken by his pursuers.

"I was frightened to death, absolutely terrified," Mr Francis said. "They followed me after I waved at them for letting me through at the corner. Before they dragged me out of my car, one of them walked up with a bottle filled with a pink liquid. He screamed he would 'torch' the car if I didn't open the door. I had no choice but to get out. I have had horrible thoughts about being burnt since seeing Germans kill our wounded and dying at Arnhem with phosphorous bullets."

Two of the three men dragged him from behind the wheel by his hair and swung him on to the side of the vehicle before beating him about the head, body and legs. The third stood by eating chips.

Mr Francis, who suffers from cancer of the prostate, was set upon after leaving a branch meeting of the Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) in Portsmouth, Hampshire, on Tuesday night. His attackers only relented when

one noticed their victim was wearing an NVA crest on his blazer. He pointed this out to the other two, who pushed him back into his car and, accusing him of putting up two fingers to them, warned: "Don't do that again." Before leaving they gave Mr Francis one last kick.

After driving home to Chichester, where he lives with his wife Edna, he was admitted to hospital and treated for shock and bruising.

Hampshire police said one of the men, who were in a dark coloured saloon car, possibly a Vauxhall, was 6ft tall and aged about 20. He had a long chin and denim jacket, and it is thought he was called Pauly. Detective Sergeant Graham Wilson said: "This was a clear example of jobs committing



Francis dragged out of car and beaten

wanton violence. Mr Francis is terrified as a result of this attack. It's a particularly nasty incident of road rage and none of the officers who have been dealing with this can quite believe the circumstances."

The attack has appalled and angered Mr Francis's fellow Normandy Veterans. Eddie Wallace, the Portsmouth branch chairman, said: "I just do not know what is happening to people these days. I don't wish to put down all young people, but it seems to be typical of the army of uneducated youth of today. There is no way a man of Ronald's age is going to make any sign that is going to cause anyone to wallop him."

Mr Francis joined the RAF in 1940 aged 18 but transferred to No 2 platoon, 2nd Parachute Regiment in 1942 as a machine-gunner. He was one of 10,000 troops dropped to take the bridge at Arnhem.

"Less than 2,000 of our boys came home from Holland. I was shot in the thigh on the bridge at Arnhem, and bayoneted in the knee during the third German bayonet charge," he recalled. "I didn't go through the bloody war to be treated like this."

"If this had happened when I was 30 years younger it would have been a different story. I was trained in close-order fighting techniques when I was in the Paras and I would have given all three of them a damn good pasting."

"I can't believe this happened to me. What kind of a world do we live in where people can attack an old man just because he's waved at them?"



Michele Benton claimed remarks in the reference were inaccurate and misleading

Graduate wins £25,000 for bad job reference

By John O'Leary and Tim Jones

A GRADUATE who claimed that a poor reference destroyed her career prospects has won £25,000 compensation in a landmark case that could have lasting consequences for employers' traditional selection processes.

Michele Benton, who is now 33, accepted an out-of-court settlement after a seven-year battle for loss of earnings in a job as a computer programmer. Employment experts said that the award would discourage firms and education institutions from giving candid accounts of job applicants.

Mrs Benton, from Fareham, Hampshire, took action against the former Polytechnic of Wales, now the Glamorgan University, when a job offer was withdrawn by Monmouth Borough Council three days before she was due to start work. Council officials said her reference was unsatisfactory but refused to allow her to see the document.

After years of litigation and searches for "mislead files", Mrs Benton was finally able to read what had been written about her. She claimed that remarks written by a course leader were inaccurate and misleading.

The reference questioned her "personal attitude and emotional state". Mrs Benton's work was said to

be of a very low standard. Despite divorcing during the final year of her course, Mrs Benton managed a third-class degree but the reference said it had been considered extremely unlikely that she would survive the course.

Mrs Benton sued Mid-Glamorgan Council, which was responsible for the polytechnic at the time, for £98,000, based on a starting salary of £10,470 a year in the job she lost.

Now remarried and chairman of her own computer company, Mrs Benton said the reference had wrecked her chances of a vital first job. "I hope my action will set a precedent and make sure that no other student is treated in the same way."

Graham Wright, who wrote the reference, said: "I gave the reference in good faith, and it was perceived to be in the best interests of both the applicant for the job and the employer."

But Gary Davies, the director of marketing and public affairs at Glamorgan University, said reference procedures had since been reviewed and guidelines issued to all staff. "It is a lesson we have learned and a warning to other organisations to be very careful with references which may be construed as being opinionated and prejudicial."

Heiress on film trying to hire killer

AN HEIRESS who teaches at a Sunday school and tried to have a property developer killed after a business deal went wrong was told by a judge yesterday that she faces a prison sentence.

Sheelagh Costaine, 39, had denied two charges of soliciting to murder John Tunstall, 59, who was engaged by Costaine's family to sell properties in Italy and was owed £50,000 by Costaine.

Costaine, the daughter of a Countess, had denied offering Adrian Brooks £10,000 to "shoot, kill and eliminate" Mr Tunstall in February last year. Mr Brooks contacted police and Costaine was secretly filmed at a hotel in High Wycombe asking the police officer to have Mr Tunstall killed. A psychiatric report on Costaine, found guilty at Reading Crown Court, said she "acted irrationally".

Costaine, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, was released on conditional bail but Mr Justice Sedley told her she should "recognise the seriousness of her situation". She will be sentenced on June 13.

Police seek clue to M25 killer

By Bill Frost

ALTHOUGH they have received thousands of calls from the public about the "road rage" murder of a man on the M25 by another driver, police say they need more positive information to catch the killer.

Detective Superintendent John Grace, who is leading the hunt for Stephen Cameron's killer, said that despite an overwhelming response to the BBC television *Crimewatch UK* programme, he needed information "that hits me between the eyes".

Mr Cameron, 21, was stabbed to death in front of his fiancée, Danielle Cable, on Sunday at the Swanley intersection of the M25 by the driver of a Land Rover Discovery. Miss Cable made an emotional appeal for help in catching the man on the programme on Thursday.

Mr Grace said several informants — over 2,000 had contacted police so far — had given names and described violent people. "But what we need is just that little bit more which actually makes us sit up

and get excited about this information, so that we know this is the right person we are looking for."

Kent police said last night that detectives were still working on the assumption that the killer had been driving a Land Rover Discovery. "There are thousands we need to trace and there is no guarantee that the vehicle was carrying legal plates, they could have been false," a spokesman said.

The driver of the L-registered vehicle is described as in his late thirties to early fifties, 5ft 10in tall, of medium build with dark greying hair. Miss Cable appealed to anyone who might be shielding him to come forward.

"Just phone, tell us who it is. We can't grieve about him until this person's been found," she said.

"We'd been together for three years. We got engaged at Christmas. We were going to get married soon. I just wish he had stabbed me as well, so I could have died with him and we could still be together."

Anne Diamond has a bad morning after show is axed

By Robin Young

JUST because you usually face the public on a sofa does not mean that you take things lying down. Anne Diamond was said to have proved that at the farewell party for the BBC's *Good Morning* programme, axed yesterday after a four-year run.

She and her co-presenter Nick Owen joined 50 programme staff for the party shortly after the show ended yesterday. The partygoers saw Ms Diamond's reaction when she received a bouquet

of flowers and a faxed message of thanks from Alan Yentob, the Controller of BBC1. She threw them on the floor in disgust, a witness claimed.

"Alan Yentob obviously meant it as a gesture of goodwill thanking them for all their hard work but it backfired badly. Anne read the fax message and plainly did not agree with what Mr Yentob said about the programme," a guest at the party alleged. The guest reported Ms Diamond as saying: "After what I have just read, I

could not possibly accept these flowers." The guest claimed: "Then she just flung the bouquet to the floor. A lot of people looked pretty amazed at the outburst."

The guest's account of the party was different from that offered earlier by Gordon Kaye, the star of *'Allo 'Allo*, who had appeared on the final programme. He said as he left the BBC's Pebble Mill studios in Birmingham: "The atmosphere in there is wonderful. There are no tears and it is a terrific send-off."

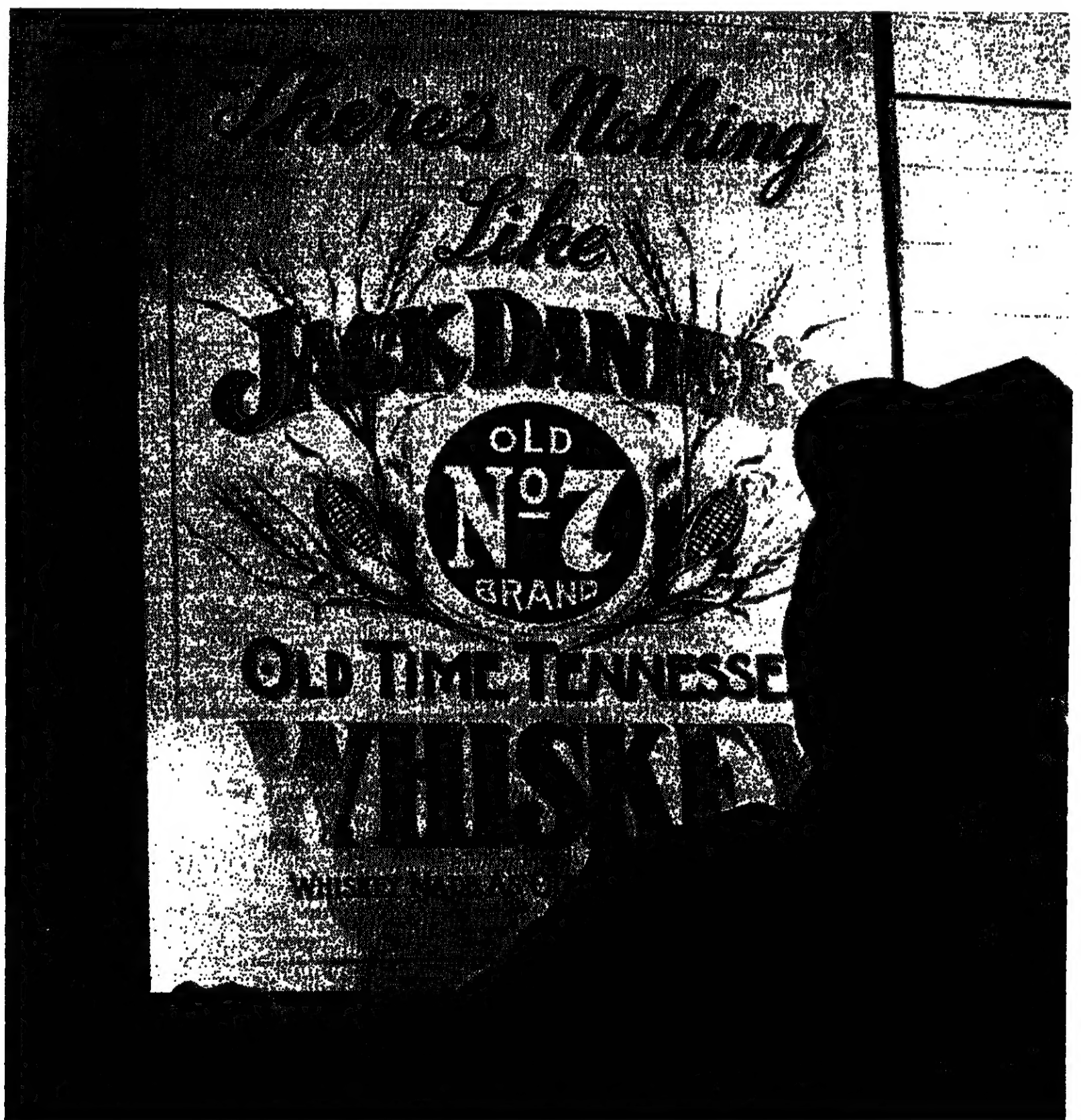
Phil Dale, Ms Diamond's agent in London, said: "Anne did put the flowers down but the bouquet was very large, absolutely ginormous. She took the flowers with her when she left."

A BBC spokesperson at Pebble Mill said: "It is true that Anne refused the flowers offered by Mr Yentob, which were presented to her by Nigel Chapman, Pebble Mill's Head of Broadcasting, on his behalf. It would be fair to say that Anne had trouble accepting the tribute after the show had been axed and was a little put out."

The BBC will fill *Good Morning*'s time with children's programmes and sport. It has not yet announced presenters or format for the programme that will take over after the summer.



Diamond and Owen on the last Good Morning



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKY

Eastbourne takes the shine off Jersey's sun boast

By Philip Jeune

EASTBOURNE has won the opening skirmish in "sun wars", but arch rival Jersey still claims to be the sunniest place in the British Isles, and is supported by the Meteorological Office.

The East Sussex resort, which has nearly 200,000 visitors a year, complained to television watchdogs about an advertisement in which the Channel Island claimed, on average, to get more sunshine than anywhere else.

The claim was based on Met Office statistics for 1961-90 which show that Jersey, which gets half a million UK visitors, had more sunshine than its mainland rivals. However, over the past five years Jersey has been beaten in the sunshine stakes by Eastbourne and, based on these figures, Eastbourne council claimed the TV ad was misleading.

In a ruling to be announced next week, the Independent Television Commission upholds Eastbourne's complaint,

saying that the 1991-95 figures, being "more recent and covering a reasonably long period", should take precedence.

"I'm delighted that the ITC have said that this sort of claim takes things too far," Ron Cussons, Eastbourne's director of tourism, said. "Jersey has been selective with the figures it chose. You could go back 100 years."

However, Sheila Henwood, director of tourism on Jersey, said: "We're very surprised by the decision. In meteorological terms 30 years is considered to be the relevant period, not five. We suspected that Eastbourne felt this was a publicity opportunity."

That the 30-year figure is the right one is a view shared by Malcolm Brooks, of the Met Office at Bracknell, who says that Jersey is the sunniest place in the British Isles with its average of 1,914 hours of sunshine a year.

Jersey's advertisement, part of a £2 million campaign featuring the comedienne Dawn French as the voice of

an animated Jersey cow, Lillie, was originally approved by the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre after seeing the 30-year statistics.

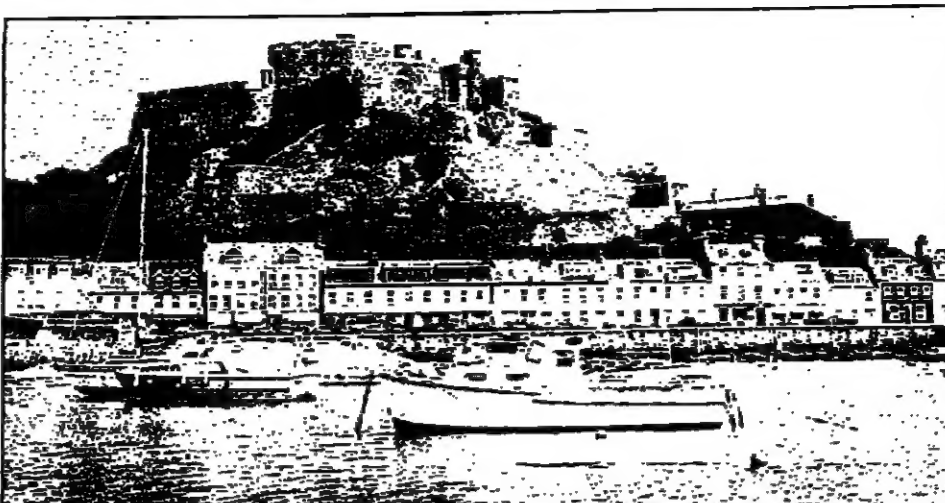
"We had to prove our claims before the ad went on air," Mrs Henwood said, "and evidence was provided to the BACC about our sunshine and our clean seawater. All the evidence is stacked in our favour."

However, after the ITC decision, Lillie appears to have been put in the shade by Eastbourne's tourism mascot, Mr Sunshine. Senator Dick Shenton, Jersey tourism chief, reacted philosophically to the news. "Good luck to Eastbourne. I wish them well," he said, adding: "There are enough tourists out there for all of us."

The official Met Office figures show that from 1961 to 1990, the average amount of sunshine was 1,914 hours in Jersey and 1,833 in Eastbourne. From 1991 to 1995, Eastbourne had 1,832 hours and Jersey 1,796.



Eastbourne: tourist chiefs claim that an advertisement for Jersey is misleading



Jersey: advertised as having more sunshine than anywhere in the British Isles

Longed-for rain washes out holiday events

By Harvey Elliott and Kyle Smith

VILLAGE fêtes, cricket matches, hot-air balloon meetings, fruit-picking festivals and even sheep-shearing competitions were called off yesterday as the rain poured down and Britain faced another washed-out Bank Holiday weekend.

But weather forecasters offered a glimmer of hope for Bank Holiday Monday, which should be dry with some sunshine even though temperatures are expected to be well below the average for late spring.

"We are getting the kind of weather that we should have had about six weeks ago," a Met Office forecaster said yesterday. "We are hovering between winter and spring and although it looks as if Monday will be rather better, make the most of it because this unsettled weather is continuing as far ahead as we can see."

The rain which prevented the completion of the England v India one-day cricket match at The Oval forced the abandonment of a horse race meeting at Brighton and prevented sheep-shearing because of the sodden wool and aching wrists of shearers in the biting cold.

The Chelsea Flower Show ended on a damp and dripping note. Because of the rain, 140,000 cups of tea and coffee were sold compared with 90,000 last year, while sales of ice cream were down to 30,000 against the 80,000 enjoyed by visitors during the hot weather a year ago.

But at least the water companies were smiling as the rain helped reservoir levels. There was some hope that they would be able to keep the water taps running through the summer.

Others were less sanguine. Derek Belton, of the British Balloon and Airships Club, faced reality and admitted: "Events have been washed out

this weekend." Peter Plummer, of the Auto-Cycle Union, said many motorcycling events had already been cancelled and that the British Motorcross Championship, due to be held today in Ailsbury, Cambridgeshire, is under threat.

Fred Inch, of the English Bowling Association, said: "We're not happy with the weather. In fact, it's terrible. We've had the worst start to the season we've had in years."

Fruit-picking was also held back largely because there is so little ripened fruit to be found. Concordia, a group of youth services volunteers, said picking sessions were cancelled for the weekend. Even the crop needed to supply Wimbledon fortnight is threatened by the late start to the season.

But some people remained undaunted by the rain. Morris Dancers promised to celebrate the spring as usual. Martin Roberts, secretary for Open Morris, said: "We'll go on regardless, especially at Whitsun."

"There's certainly some big weekends and events coming up and they won't get cancelled just because of the weather, although we prefer it to be sunny. To be honest, we like to think the weather actually changes for us."

Many tourism officials said that pre-booking had already guaranteed surprisingly strong business for the Bank Holiday weekend. In Bournemouth, the tourist trade was "actually looking good", the tourism office said.

"If the sun was shining, I expect our phones would have been even busier. We've done our sun dance here, the opposite of a rain dance, but it hasn't worked this weekend."

Forecast, page 22
Weekend, page 1

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Disruptive pupil cured by learning with mother

By A Staff Reporter

TEACHERS put a disruptive schoolboy on the path to becoming a model pupil by arranging for his mother to sit with him in class.

Anthony Kidd, 15, had been suspended from school because of rudeness to teachers and other misbehaviour. But when he returned he showed no improvement and ignored threats of further action.

Staff at Hattersley High School in Tameside, Greater Manchester, took up Debbie Kidd's suggestion that she accompany her son to lessons for a day to make sure he paid attention. The embarrassing experience had a salutary effect and Anthony has now been nominated as a prefect.

Michael Buczynski, deputy headmaster, said: "When An-



Anthony Kidd: given unforgettable lesson

thony found out what was up he was devastated. He was terrified he was going to be shown up in front of his friends. She sat at the back and said, 'Come on Anthony, get on with your work.'"

Anthony, who is studying for GCSEs and hopes to become a vet, said: "The lesson was an experience I won't forget. I was really embarrassed."

Mrs Kidd said that he had "improved a lot". The 500-pupil comprehensive school has no plans to repeat the experiment, but teachers say the fear of similar humiliation has subdued his classmates.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "If anything works in turning around disruptive pupils, I welcome it. But bringing parents into class would be totally impractical on a national scale."

Families fear MoD homes sale

The possible sale of the Armed Forces' married quarters to the Japanese bank Nomura International is causing concern among service families.

The Ministry of Defence wants to sell the 55,000 married quarters and lease back those it needs to house service personnel.

Cherry Milne of the Army Families Federation, said: "If selling to a Japanese bank is considered to be in the interests of service families, I am extremely alarmed."

Silcott appeal

Winston Silcott, whose conviction of murdering PC Keith Blakelock was quashed, has lost his attempt at the Court of Appeal to overturn a court decision that blocked part of his claim for damages against the Metropolitan Police, alleging two officers fabricated interview evidence.

WPC loses case

Teresa Taylor, a 26-year-old former policewoman, had her damages claim for sex discrimination against the Nottinghamshire force rejected by an industrial tribunal. She had alleged that her ex-lover, a serving officer, was a member of an illegal Nazi group and had beaten her up.

Tube attack

A bank security guard who attacked an Underground official when his train was delayed has been jailed for two years by Southwark Crown Court. Robert O'Brien, 42, of Ladbroke Grove, west London, punched his victim so hard he was lifted off the ground and thrown six feet.

Graduate jailed

A graduate of Balliol College, Oxford, was jailed for three months by city magistrates for obscene telephone calls to women students. Geoffrey Connell-O'Brien, 47, who lives in the city, read *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* as he sat in the dock. He is to appeal against sentence.

Amis divorce

The 12-year marriage of the writer Martin Amis and Antonia Phillips has ended with an uncontested divorce in London. The couple, who did not attend the hearing, have two children. Ms Phillips had sued for divorce on the basis that they had lived apart for more than two years.

Sadler's 61 staff lottery

Mother of all-night after party

Woman murdered

A DIVORCED mother who was murdered by her ex-husband while he was on the way to work has been named as the victim of a police investigation.

Jobbins got ten years community service for

حكايا من الاصل

Sadler's Wells cuts 61 staff after £30m lottery handout

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SADLER'S WELLS Theatre in north London is laying off two thirds of its staff only months after receiving £30 million of National Lottery money from the Arts Council.

A master carpenter who has been there for more than 21 years is among 61 backstage workers who have been told that they will lose their jobs next month when the theatre closes and moves to a temporary home at the Royal Opera House in central London. Some, it is believed, may be rehired, but will have to reapply for their jobs.

The theatre manager, chief electrician and front-of-house manager have received letters from the management, headed by Ian Albery, the chief executive. It says the existing staff is not required during a two-year £38 million rebuilding programme at the theatre in Islington. The union claims that 21 managers are being retained on full pay.

Tom Bell, a national official with the technicians union Bectu, said: "They've also kept on two cleaners — presumably so that they can keep it clean for the managers." He added: "I've heard of 'too many chiefs and not enough Indians', but not, 'too many chiefs and no Indians'." Paul Howard, 49,

the master carpenter who rigs and operates the sets, said: "I am bitter and angry. They haven't made any effort to give people their jobs back when the new theatre opens in two years' time."

"First, we were told we wouldn't be offered our jobs back. Then they guaranteed an interview, along with others who wanted to apply. This is my job — a job I've had for 21 years. Then they said they would be guaranteed. The next day, they said they'd offer our jobs back 'if we were suitable'. After 21 years, if I wasn't suitable, they would have found out by now."

Other casualties include Michael Coghlan, 56, a stage-door attendant, who said: "We were all led by the nose. We all thought the redevelopment was a good idea, and still do. The trouble is we thought we were going to be included in it."

Also on the hit-list is Jim Smith, a theatre manager who was a dancer with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet until injuries forced him to retire backstage; he has worked at the theatre for 15 years.

The union, which is planning to take Sadler's Wells to an industrial tribunal, expressed outrage that some

staff who had worked at the theatre for more than 15 years had been offered redundancy pay of £200. Mr Bell said that among the worst cases were elderly cleaners who had worked there for 20 years: because they were well past retirement, they were not entitled to state redundancy.

"After a lot of pressure, the management finally offered them £200 in ten instalments of £20 a piece. These ladies were working there long before Ian Albery had even heard of the place," he said.

Mr Albery reacted angrily to the union's claims and said the suggestion that 21 members of staff were all managers was "a lie". We are keeping on 23 members of staff. Eight are managers but the rest are ordinary workers, including people in secretarial and programming.

He added: "The philosophy is to keep those people who are the nucleus of staff necessary to start again in another theatre." Asked about the £200 given to the cleaners, he said: "That's another lie. The cleaners have been offered a four-figure sum, over £1,000 each."

"It is very distressing for me too. It is terrifying to make people redundant. It is not easy, believe me. A lot of



Michael Coghlan, a stage door attendant, faces redundancy. "We thought redevelopment was a good idea"

people are understandably hurt. Without the lottery money, the theatre would have closed and 85 people would have lost their jobs — myself included.

"It's a rundown theatre where there's been no investment probably since it was built in 1930. It receives no public subsidy. Our total

funding is less than 6 per cent of our revenue."

He added: "Mr Howard has misunderstood the situation. As soon as we know which jobs we can offer, we're not going to advertise anywhere else. I expect we will employ as many as possible at the Royal. However, it's about half the

size of our present operation. I cannot guarantee everybody back their jobs because there will be different jobs to a certain extent. The Royal is not owned by us. They control some of the staffing.

"The moment we know which jobs are available, we will notify staff."

More than 100 Royal Shakespeare Company technicians at the Barbican in London have decided to ballot for strike action after the company announced that it would tour for six months of the year.

Arts, page 15

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE FATHER'S TALE



The story of Jaymee Bowen, or "Child B", who died of leukaemia this week, is also the story of a father who transcended his own very human failings to take on the medical establishment

Read the extraordinary details of this young father's personal struggle — in News Review

THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

Mother tells jury of all-night hunt after pantomime

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE mother of a teenager killed on her way home from a Christmas pantomime told a court yesterday of her all-night search for her missing daughter.

Maureen Julian, 46, from Kilmarnock, whose 16-year-old daughter Mhairi was killed on December 16 on her way home from Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre, told the High Court in Glasgow that her daughter was never late and usually telephoned her father to collect her.

Clavin McGuire, 37, denies assaulting and murdering the girl. Mrs Julian told the court: "When my daughter didn't come home or phone I became concerned. About 10.30pm or 10.45pm I walked almost to the Palace Theatre. I saw no sign of Mhairi. My daughter Claire and her boyfriend took me around Kilmarnock in the car trying to find her."

PC Brian Walls told the jury that he had found Mhairi's body in a disused coal bunker in a bus depot near her home the day after she disappeared.

The girl had been to an anniversary party for the grandmother of her friend Jul-

ie-Anne Holland. They went to the theatre. Mrs Julian told the court that it had been arranged that Mhairi would phone her father, who would pick her up outside the theatre. But the show finished early at 9.15pm and Mhairi decided to walk. Half an hour after leaving for home, she had still not arrived.

The court saw a security video showing Mr McGuire walking through a shopping centre near the depot at 9.22pm on the night of the killing.

A barmaid, Sally Duncan, 38, identified Mr McGuire as a man who had been drinking that evening in the bar in Kilmarnock where she worked.

A dog breeder, Shirley Whitelaw, told the court that she had picked out the wrong man at an identity parade because she was worried about having left her dogs in her car for so long. She later told the police she had misled them. She said she had seen a man from her car while it was stationary, near the bus depot, at about 9.30pm, and identified Mr McGuire in court.

The trial before Lord Clyde continues on Tuesday.

Woman tried to murder lovers

By LIN JENKINS

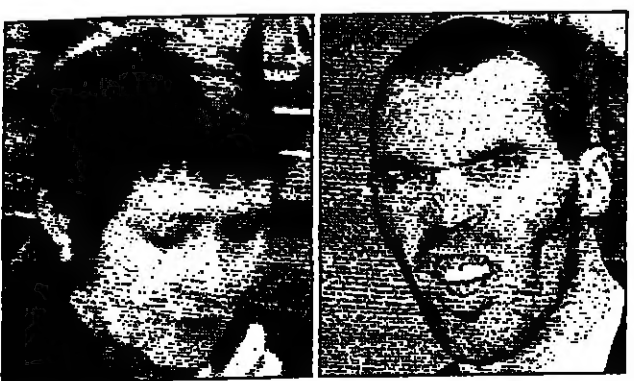
A DIVORCEE who had one of her lovers stabbed and tried to lure the other to his death so that she could inherit their money was jailed for ten years yesterday.

While Ruth Jobbins was making wedding arrangements in return for the men bequeathing their combined wealth of £125,000, she was plotting their deaths with a man who owed her money. Bristol Crown Court was told. Jim Purdy, 61, a divorcee, was assaulted twice, thrown into Bristol docks and left to drown. Two days earlier, in December 1994, Michael Brain, 58, a bachelor, was stabbed with a screwdriver. Mr Brain, 53, a computer operator, told the court he was standing by her and planned to leave her money in his will.

After Jobbins, 49, from Bristol, was convicted of attempted murder and conspiracy to assault, Mr Justice Smedley told her: "You told police that you were not a stupid woman. You are not. But you are an evil woman."

He said she stripped Mr Purdy, a retired postman, of his money until there was only his life assurance left. Jobbins, 49, of Bristol, recruited Robert Wood, who owed money to her greengrocery business, to help her. Wood, 25, of Tottenham, Bristol, admitted attempting to murder Mr Purdy and conspiracy to assault Mr Brain. He was jailed for seven years.

Nicholas Scorer, 34, of Bristol, who admitted conspiracy to assault Mr Brain, was ordered to carry out 180 hours' community service.



Jobbins got ten years for attempted murder. Scorer community service for conspiracy to assault Mr Brain

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Cocktail of toxic chemicals found in back gardens

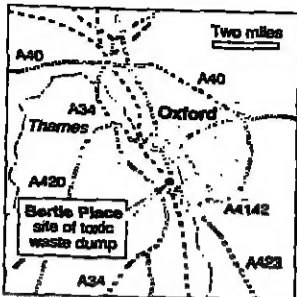
By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

ARSENIC, lead and mercury have been found in concentrations up to 16 times the maximum recommended safety level in dozens of back gardens in Oxford.

The 150 residents of 50 houses in New Hinksey are to have health checks and they will probably have to be evacuated while the gardens are dug up and replaced. They have been told not to eat any home-grown vegetables or let their children play with the soil in their gardens, which date from the 1930s.

Housing officials from Oxford City Council found the contamination by chance when they took routine soil samples while investigating subsidence.

The residents of the homes, mostly council houses, in Bertie Place and part of Abingdon Road, were told of the danger in a two-page letter



from the council on Thursday evening. It said they had "probably not been harmed" but recommended health checks and other precautions.

Anne Eudell, 59, who has lived in Bertie Place for 30 years, said: "I am shocked. My husband died of cancer 15 years ago and five other people have died of cancer in the same street. It seems a bit peculiar." Another resident, Melannie Burnham, has two small children, aged five and three, and is worried for their safety. She said: "We have recently been digging the

garden and the kids have been playing in it. I do not know how I am going to stop them."

Jim Duffy, a retired council worker who has been growing potatoes and cabbages in his back garden in Bertie Place for more than 20 years, said: "I have been eating vegetables from my garden for years. God knows what it has done to me. If they decide to rouse me it will be too late because the damage will have been done. The whole area used to be a tip before the houses were built and you would have thought they would have tested it properly before letting people live here. It could cause cancer or all sorts of diseases. You just do not know."

Dick Mayon-White, consultant public health physician to the Oxfordshire Health Authority, said: "The trouble with these metals is that they can accumulate so that people build up levels of toxicity in their tissues. Symptoms could include clumsiness, tremors, mental instability and learning difficulties in children. For the moment we do not think it is necessary to move the people concerned."

"They can continue to walk in their gardens and let their pets play there. The position will be reviewed when more tests have been carried out."

Questionnaires are being sent to the residents, asking them to mention any signs of ill-health that might indicate chemical poisoning. In the light of their replies they may be asked to take urine and blood tests.

The affected houses were all built by Oxford City Council in 1933 and officials believe the contamination was introduced in rubble and other fillers used to level the land and raise it above the floodplain of the nearby River Isis.

Colin Ellmore, contract manager for Oxford City Homes, said: "We are carrying out further soil tests. It is likely that we will have to move the residents temporarily while we replace the soil in the front and back gardens. Depending on how much soil we have to take out, we could be looking at an operation costing up to £1 million."



Anne Eudell tends her garden in Bertie Place, Oxford

Attacker tried to castrate gay vicar

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN who tried to castrate a homosexual vicar with his bare hands after luring him to his home was jailed for life yesterday.

John Pennington, 23, told police that he picked up the vicar in a gay nightclub because he wanted to kill a homosexual. At his twelfth-floor flat in Salford, Pennington climbed into bed with his victim then attacked him.

The 50-year-old vicar, referred to in court as Mr X, staggered naked and bleeding down 200 stairs before collapsing. He spent three days in hospital after doctors stitched back his scrotum.

Pennington told police: "He tried to kiss me and I went crazy. I tried to castrate him. I hate queers — they should all be killed. It didn't matter whether it was this man or anyone else — any homo would have done."

Manchester Crown Court was told that Mr X had travelled a long distance from his parish in Scunthorpe to spend a night out with a male friend. Pennington, described by his counsel as having a "grossly disturbed personality", admitted wounding with intent after the prosecution accepted his not guilty plea to attempted murder.

Freed jackpot winner is back in the fast lane

By LIN JENKINS

LEE RYAN, the lottery jackpot winner whose spending spree was curtailed by an 18-month jail sentence, was free yesterday to enjoy the trappings of wealth.

Released from Stafford jail for five days over the Whitsun holiday, he joined his wife and children in the farmhouse he bought after handing back the keys to his council house. He celebrated his freedom by going for a drive in his red Ferrari Testarossa. He was spoilt for choice: in the garage were a Jaguar, Porsche, BMW, Mitsubishi Shogun and two Ducati motorbikes.

Ryan's taste for fast cars and expensive toys has outgrown the facilities at his house in Osbaston, Leicestershire. While he was in prison his wife Karen, 36, had a 50ft hangar built for the Jet Ranger helicopter. However, the couple have had to submit a further planning application as the building was originally listed as a stable and haystore.

Ryan won £6.5 million on the National Lottery in March last year when he was living on state benefits. In September he was convicted of handling stolen cars at Nottingham Crown Court and sentenced to 18 months. The jury was not told of his win. He

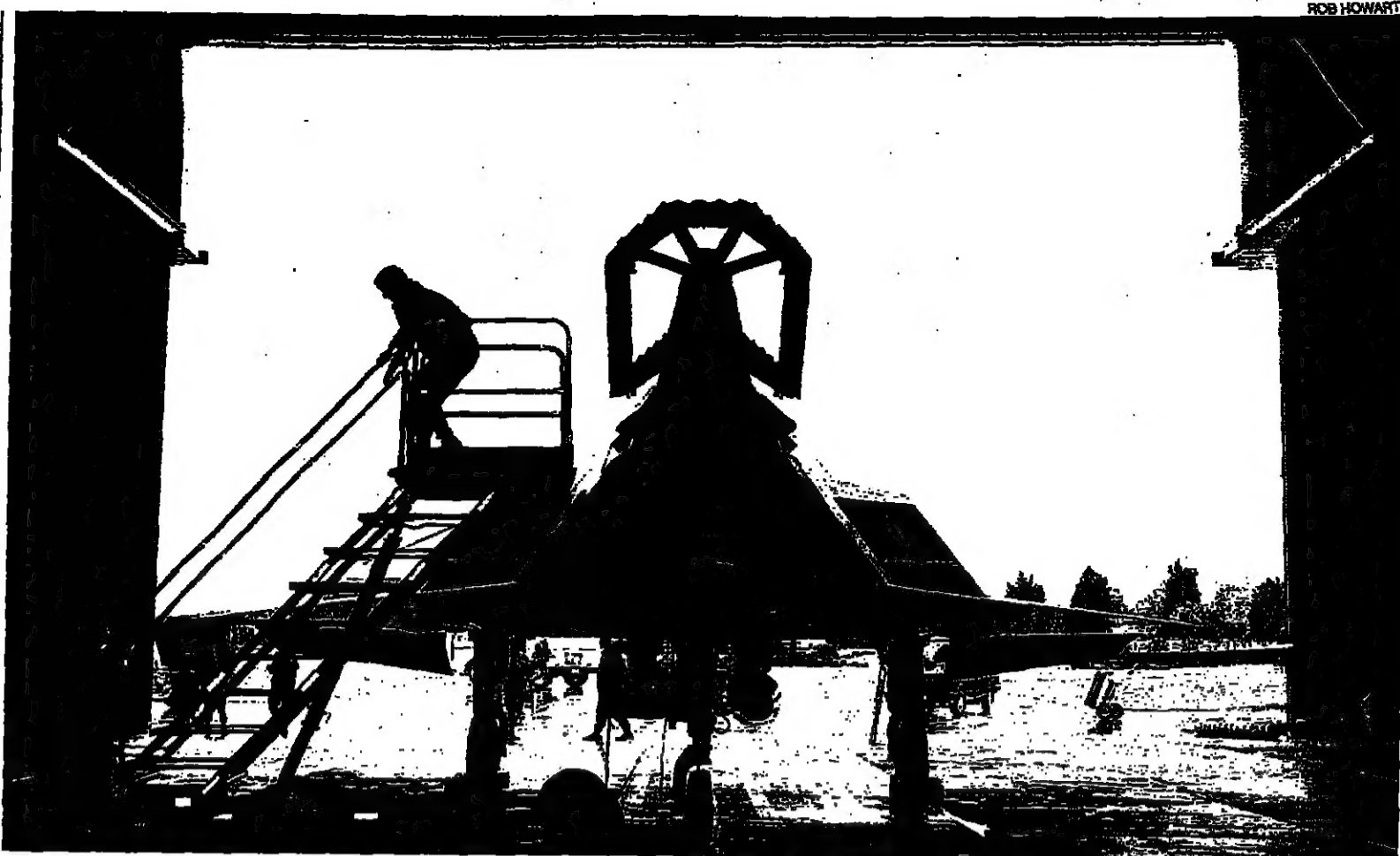
and an accomplice took a Mercedes, Ford Transit van and a BMW to Malta to sell. The vehicles had false number plates and forged documents.

Ryan married the mother of his children Dennis, 14, Nadeyne, 11, and Niall, 6, shortly before the trial but has yet to arrange a honeymoon. He is due to complete his jail term next month.

Karl Crompton, 23, from Blackpool, is celebrating his £11 million win with eight male friends in Hawaii. He paid for the trip, travelling economy class, and has given them each £1,000 to spend.

The draw this weekend could see the 200th million-pound winning ticket. In the past 79 weeks 199 tickets have won £1 million or more as part of the jackpot prize. Camelot estimates that this week the jackpot payout will be about £10 million.

□ Ryan lost an Appeal Court challenge yesterday against costs and compensation orders of £59,000 made against him after his trial. Mr Justice Nelson, announcing the court's decision, said it could well be said that Ryan's good fortune far outweighed those who suffered because of his dishonesty.



America's F117A Nighthawk stealth fighter arriving at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk, headquarters of the US Third Air Force, for an air show today

Homes with sprinklers 'must use water meters'

By A STAFF REPORTER

THOUSANDS OF householders who use sprinklers or have swimming pools will be made to have water meters, South West Water announced yesterday.

But the arrangement will depend on such customers voluntarily registering with the company. Other conservation

measures that it announced include fixed-rate pipe repairs to encourage customers to have leaking pipes mended and the opportunity for customers using meters to change to a non-meter tariff when they move house.

Bob Baty, the company's managing director, said: "This range of new measures will help to conserve more

water supplies for the benefit of all our customers. They are additional to the many other steps that we are already taking to enable us to collect extra water for storage and conserve existing water stocks."

In particular, we are getting increasing benefit from making better use of local rivers and by reducing at a faster rate the amount of water leaking

from old water mains. Our continuing work to improve the amount of water available to customers following last year's exceptional summer is progressing very well."

Mr Baty said that no extension was necessary yet to hosepipe restrictions in parts of North Devon, but it was likely that they would have to be extended eventually.



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(0800 888 555 from outside London) or see your travel agent.

UNITED AIRLINES

Crossword finalists go one up

By ROBIN YOUNG

A RECORD number of minds will today make a concerted effort to solve a series of Times crosswords in the London regional final of the newspaper's annual competition.

In previous years the London final has been staged in two parts, but this year it is one event. In addition, for the first time there is a doubles title to be won, as well as the individual championship.

The result is the largest entry recorded in the 27 years of the competition. Six hundred competitors have qualified as individuals and another 100 pairs are entered

for the doubles at the Royal Lancaster Hotel. Proceedings start at 2pm.

Each competitor will receive a complementary miniature from the competition's sponsors, Aberlour Single Highland Malt Whisky, in recognition of the record entry.

Roy Dean, from Bromley in southeast London, the officially recognised world record holder for completing a puzzle in the quickest time, will once again be among the competitors. To break his record, someone is going to have to do better than 3 minutes 45 seconds.

That it can be done was

shown some years ago by Paul Henderson, one of The Times crossword compilers, who completed a puzzle while sitting in the audience in less than 2½ minutes. However, he was not under investigation at the time and his record could not be ratified.

Only one entrant from every 60 taking part goes forward to the national final, to be staged in London on October 5. To win through, competitors will probably have to complete all their four puzzles in an average time of under 10 minutes.

There is one remaining regional final, which will take place in Birmingham on July 7.

Carey warns the West against discounting risk of conflict with Islam

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE West has too readily discounted the possibility of conflict with Islam, the Archbishop of Canterbury said last night.

Dr George Carey said the role of religion in conflict and the part various faiths could play in helping to prevent and resolve it must be taken more seriously. Speaking in Los Angeles, he said it was essential for the West to develop a deeper understanding of the religions and philosophies of other civilisations if world peace was to be secured. Commenting on the suggestion that conflict between Islam and the West was likely, he said: "That thesis has been rigorously examined and, in my view, too quickly discounted in the West."

He was "saddened" to discover that when murder and violence was perpetrated by fundamentalists in the name of religion, "few leaders in such communities condemn the atrocities".

The proposition that conflict between Islam and the West was probable, a thesis advanced by Samuel Huntington of Harvard University, was dismissed by some as alarmist, while others argued that the worst conflicts were within and not between

civilisations, the Archbishop said. Others thought a suggestion that the West's next confrontation would be with the Muslim world was "too politically incorrect" to merit discussion, he said.

But Dr Carey, condemning all extremism which ended in murder and violence, said he would "own up quite fairly" to the part religion had played in perpetrating cruelty, wars, violence, bloodshed and evil.

He said that unlike secular creeds such as Nazism and communism, which had led also to violent atrocities, religion was by no means dead. "Indeed it is awesomely present wherever we look in the world, not least those areas of the world where violence, terror and war continue to plague the human race. If we consider our own communities, we find lurking there some of the ingredients for potential religious conflict, misunderstanding and intolerance."

Dr Carey, addressing the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on a nine-day visit to Bermuda, Chicago and Los Angeles, condemned those who "hide behind religious faith to justify acts of terrorism". He said extremists, wheth-

er in Egypt, Israel or Northern Ireland, should not be allowed refuge in religious faith. "We must make it clear that true religion does not justify such behaviour," he said.

While Dr Carey, who meets British Muslim leaders at least once a year, does not believe a war between Islam and the West is imminent, his talks with Muslim leaders have alerted him to concern among Christians and Muslims about the difficulties they face in working together.

Dr Carey told the council: "Almost every week we are subjected to scenes of horror on television when unspeakable atrocities are done in the name of religion. There can be no justification from any religious tradition for such intolerance and fanaticism."

He urged all faiths to "transcend the negative and destructive features of religion and culture which have done so much damage to our world". While mainstream faiths had tolerance of differences written into their codes, "terrible things continue to be done in the name of religion, a fact which shames religion".

Prayers Please, Weekend, page 15



Sarah Menzies putting the finishing touches to a cake commissioned to celebrate Norwich Cathedral's 900th anniversary today. The confection took 180 hours to make

Credo

A neglected story that should fill hearts with hope

Why is it that Pentecost, compared with Christmas and Easter, really rather fails to capture the popular imagination and perhaps even the imagination of church people too? A simple explanation might be that Pentecost lacks that sentimental tinge of childhood associations with presents and chocolate. But maybe there is something more to it than that. Is it that the drama of Christmas and Easter seems so much greater than the drama of Pentecost? At Christmas, the Church tells the story of God becoming man in Jesus Christ. At Easter it tells the story of Jesus rising from the grave. Now whether those to whom these stories are recounted believe or disbelieve, they can have no doubt that these are stories of epic deeds. But when at Pentecost the Church tells the story of its own birth is it telling a similarly epic story, or have we descended to the altogether more mundane?

Michael Banner

Long before Pentecost, the prophet Ezekiel had a great and moving vision of a valley filled with bones. "These bones," Ezekiel is told, "are the whole house of Israel." And the bones were very dry, for Israel had long ago turned away from its God, and closed itself against that spirit, the spirit of God, by which it was constituted a living people. But then the prophet is questioned: "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" Can they, in other words, receive once again the spirit of God and so become a living people?

"O Lord God, thou knowest," says Ezekiel — for this possibility is not one which he can on his own account affirm. How could it be that a heap of sunbleached bones should live; how could it be, in other words, that Israel should be restored and redeemed, that it should be raised up from its grave of sin and alienation and disobedience?

Only God can make possible what is in human terms an impossibility, this God who can, as Jesus said, raise up children for Abraham from the very stones. Thus it is God alone who can command the prophet to do what might appear to be the vainest of things, to prophesy to a heap of bones, for only He can ensure that the word of the prophet will be heard by this lifeless debris. And so we are told: "The breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host."

That which was seen in Ezekiel's vision was realised

Pentecost speaks of both of this new life, conceived by the Holy Spirit, as a very resurrection of the dry bones of Israel. But it is not just that on the day of Pentecost, God acted in a way that is properly to be likened to his actions on Christmas and Easter Day. It is rather that God's single act of redemption, begun in Bethlehem and proclaimed by the one who met the disciples from his tomb, at last bears its fruit among humankind.

Pentecost is the great dawning of what Christmas and Easter Day promised, the day on which those who are dead to God are conceived by the Holy Spirit and raised to a new and miraculous life. And this surely, in a world of dry bones, is a story not only to capture our imaginations, but more especially to fill our hearts with hope.

□ The Rev Michael Banner is Professor of Moral and Social Theology at King's College London

Leading article, page 19

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Gunman obsessed by Hungerford shot 17 bystanders

By Paul Wilkinson

A MENTALLY ill man obsessed with the Hungerford massacre visited the Berkshire town before returning to his Tyneside home and shooting 17 people in 20 minutes, a court was told yesterday.

Robert Sartin killed one person and wounded 16 others, some seriously, on a Sunday morning in West Monkseaton. Eventually, an unarmed policeman persuaded him to surrender.

Sartin, who was a 23-year-old civil servant living with his parents in the town at the time of the attack in April 1989, has been detained in Ashworth high-security hospital in Liverpool ever since. In 1990 a jury decided that his schizophrenia was so severe he could not answer any charge.

Yesterday at Durham Crown Court a judge ordered Sartin to be detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act. On the ground of insanity, he had formally denied murdering Kenneth Mackintosh, 41, a BT manager, and 16 counts of attempted murder. He was detained without any formal finding of guilt. Mr Justice Ian Kennedy told Sartin: "This tragedy came about because you were, and remain, a gravely ill man."

Marion Swan, a consultant psychiatrist who had been treating Sartin for three years before the shootings, said afterwards that he had been influenced by the *Halloween* movies and had visited

Hungerford, where Michael Ryan shot dead 16 people in 1987. Sartin was also obsessed by the occult and was hearing voices. "This was an extremely acute and severe case. He says it was a short period of absolute insanity. He has attempted to take his own life."

"Until then he had been at work, had a girlfriend and attended family social occasions. That morning he seemed the same as usual."

Sartin, dressed in black and with a bandolier of cartridges over his shoulder, had wandered through the streets with his father's 12-bore, shooting at anyone he saw. His first target was Judith Rhodes, shot through her car windscreen. In the next street he hit five more people, including Mr Mackintosh, who was returning home from church. David Robson, QC, for the prosecution, said: "Sartin discharged

two barrels at him from 20 yards. Sartin walked up to where he lay and fired two more cartridges into him, killing him instantly."

He fired at two more people before shooting Brian Thoms. Mr Robson said: "Mr Thoms saw the gun and said to Sartin 'Don't be so stupid, son'. He fired two shots at him."

Sartin continued to walk the streets and fired at other people, including three members of the same family, Peter Robert Burdon, his wife Jean and their daughter Nicola. His last victim was Jean Millar, shot as she worked in her garden. After this he went back to his car and drove away towards the seaford."

There he was confronted by PC Danny Herdman. The officer, now a sergeant in Berwick, has been given the Queen's Award for Gallantry.

Mr Robson told the court that the Crown had been advised regularly by psychiatrists over the past seven years. Only now was Sartin considered well enough to appear.

James Chadwin, QC, for Sartin, said he should return to hospital. He read a letter from Sartin apologising for what he had done and saying it had been "completely the product of a mental illness so severe that reality was taken over by insanity."

Afterwards, Sartin's parents issued a statement expressing sympathy to the Mackintosh family and the other victims.



Sartin carried out his attack in 20 minutes



Pupils at Portsmouth High School reaping the benefits of tuition in music, which is proving to have more far-reaching advantages

Power of music extends across curriculum

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

MUSIC has the power to improve learning in reading and mathematics. American researchers have shown.

Martin Gardiner and colleagues from the Music School in Providence, Rhode Island, introduced children aged between five and seven to an arts programme that included music. A total of 96 children in eight classes were given the enhanced arts programme, while two other classes served as controls. Their work supports a Swiss study which showed that children taught extra music learnt languages more quickly, and were no worse at mathematics despite spending less time learning it.

The American team launched the study after reading a report that listening to Mozart can increase intelligence. Two years ago, a team from the University of California showed that college students exposed to Mozart's sonata for two pianos in D major performed better on standard psychological tests than those who had heard a ten-minute tape of instructions on how to relax, or ten

minutes of silence. However, these improvements were temporary. To see if exposure to the arts could produce a more permanent change, the Rhode Island team compared the performance of the children in the arts programme with those given a normal curriculum.

They did so by measuring their improvements in reading and mathematics. They report in *Nature* that, although the children in the arts programmes lagged at the start of the project, by the end they had caught up in reading skills and were ahead in mathematics, where 77 per cent of those taught extra music and art were at the national average or above, against 55 per cent in the control classes. Classroom attitudes also showed a big improvement. "Learning arts skills forces mental 'stretching' useful to other areas of learning," the researchers conclude.

Although music is compulsory in state schools up to the age of 14, only about one teenager in 15 goes on to take GCSE in the subject. Instrumental tuition has been declining throughout the state system, particularly since schools became responsible for their own budgets.

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TRUMPET CLOSE-UP MAY CURE LIP STRAIN

SURGEONS are searching for a cure for trumpet lip, a condition that affects thousands of musicians every year. Brass players lose the ability to hit high or sustained notes of play for long periods because of muscular changes in their lips.

By fixing a tiny camera inside a

trumpet, experts at the Performing Arts Medical Clinic at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, have been able to record every detail of a performer's lips and hope to be able to prescribe ways of strengthening them. Richard Canter, consultant surgeon, said they were optimistic of success.

Noise of army fire carries to Dunblane gravesides

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

PARENTS bereaved by the Dunblane massacre have complained of hearing gunfire from a nearby army range when they visit their children's graves.

They want the Ministry of

Defence to close Whiteson Range, which is a quarter of a mile from the town's cemetery, where several of Thomas Hamilton's victims are buried.

The Territorial Army, the police and civilian gun clubs use the firing range, and Hamilton practised there before shooting 28 pupils and three teachers at the primary school in March. Sixteen children and a teacher died.

Arthur Innes, a councillor, said the bereaved families were shocked to find that gunshots could be heard at the cemetery. The MoD has so far refused requests to close the range permanently, but has agreed to shut it for the duration of the Cullen inquiry into the massacre, which starts on Wednesday. Stirling Rifle and Gun Club, of which

Hamilton was a member, has not used the range since the killings.

An MoD spokeswoman said: "It's a very sensitive matter and the Army is aware of this. We did stop using the range in the immediate aftermath of Dunblane for about a month as a mark of respect but there have been two or three bookings since."

The inquiry, held in Stirling, is expected to last eight weeks. Lord Cullen has met the victims' families to try to ease their fears about evidence that will be given to the public hearings. He has assured them that there will be no need to call witness after witness to describe the harrowing scene inside the school. There will be no evidence from the children who survived.

SAIL THROUGH LIFE

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BOOK OFFER

At a Service Near You

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in Weekend. *At a Service*, and this book is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Not quite the ecclesiastical equivalent of *The Good Pub Guide*, but Gledhill does assess the quality of the leadership, architecture, sermon, music, liturgy, after-service care and spiritual high at the churches she visits.

She describes the atmosphere, the sort of people who attend, the style of the worship, the quality of preaching and anything that particularly strikes her, even the coffee.

As the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Gledhill has been attending church regularly since childhood and the experience of visiting so many has had an impact on her own faith.

"I began the series as a churchgoing Anglican with fairly traditionalist views," she says. "The experience has made me more liberal in belief and more open to

evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

At a Service Near You makes enjoyable reading. Anyone who wants to find out about a church in an area they are visiting, or simply curious about local churches, will find it extremely helpful.

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Match-rigging row threatens Japan's sporting giants

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

FANS of sumo wrestling are scrutinising every move in the grand sumo tournament under way in Tokyo for signs of the unthinkable — that the fattest men in sport are rigging their bouts.

Allegations of match fixing have caused shock and dismay in Japan where the grunting giants are worshipped as national heroes.

Adding to the growing disquiet, a retired sumo champion died in mysterious circumstances last month after he was interviewed by a magazine investigating the scandal. Ohnaru, who managed his own "stable" of wrestlers, revealed that he routinely fixed matches, agreeing to lose to a rival in exchange for cash. Since sumo matches are fought between two wrestlers they are easier to manipulate than a team sport.

"Sumo fans are watching matches in which the outcome has been arranged beforehand," Ohnaru told the weekly magazine *Shukan Post*. His book published posthumously details other scandals including tax swindles and the close relationship between sumo executives and yakuza (gangsters).

Admitting that he too had sometimes taken money to

lose bouts, Ohnaru said he had decided to go public as "a matter of conscience because loyal and innocent fans in this country are being duped".

Some of the most popular figures in the sport, now battling in the Grand Summer tournament are involved in rigging, by Ohnaru's account. So perhaps it is not surprising that halfway through the magazine series the whistleblower died, ostensibly of complications from pneumonia, though he had no previous history of the illness. Compounding the mystery, another prominent critic of fraud in sumo, Seichiro Hashimoto, died later the same day at the same hospital of the same lung infection. Both men were supplying the



Ohnaru's book gives details of "swindles"

magazine with inside information about the seamy side of sumo.

The *Shukan Post* claimed that the Japan Sumo Association, the sport's ruling body, had used gangsters to try to suppress the embarrassing articles and implicitly linked the association to the deaths of the two men. This was too much for the guardians of the national sport who this week filed a lawsuit against the magazine publishers for libel.

The revelations could deal a serious blow to the sport, observers say, because they come from a respected source. "It's well known among reporters who cover sumo that these things go on," says the publisher of a sumo magazine. "But they know that if they write about the dirt they will lose all chances of getting the inside stories about wrestlers' marriages and love affairs that their papers really want."

The police have known for some time about match rigging which is a criminal offence, the magazine publishers said, but the bosses of sumo are virtually untouchable because of the huge wealth and power they wield. The deaths of the two men who spoke out may have changed that.



The sumo master Ohnaru who died after making allegations of fight fixing

Dutch hostages question army's gunbattle claim

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA AND MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE two Dutch hostages plucked to safety by the Indonesian Army last week, after four months of captivity in Irian Jaya, said the Free Papua Movement kidnappers had planned to kill all the Indonesian prisoners. Two of the five Indonesians were murdered minutes before the soldiers rescued the other nine hostages, four Britons.

Looking tired but happy, Martha Klein, who is seven months pregnant, and Mark van der Wal, who returned to Amsterdam on Thursday, said their release had been unexpected. As troops closed in on them and the captors, "the cornered men decided to let go of the whites and kill the rest".

The two said that they planned to stay in The Netherlands until their baby is born in July. They said that they would then consider returning to Indonesia.

The couple fled to safety with the Cambridge University students — William Oates, Daniel Star and Annette van der Kolk. The fourth Briton, Anna McIvor, was left with the Indonesians. Two were slashed by the kidnappers with machetes and bled to death. The other three ran away and Miss McIvor hid in the jungle.

The two Dutch nationals questioned the Indonesian Army's claims that it had killed eight of the rebels in the 11-hour gunbattle that led to their release from "the inaccessible green prison" on May 15. They said they knew of no other casualties except for the "horrible murders of our friends Navy [Panneken] and Tess [Yosias Lasamahulu]". That event had "heavily overshadowed the joy of freedom", they said.

Along with the Britons and 19 Indonesians, they were seized on January 8 while preparing to celebrate Mr Oates's birthday. The worst moments were at the start of the ordeal, they said. "The first few days we were threatened and intimidated by our captors. But later they treated us with respect."

The couple said communication with their captors had been "extremely difficult and frustrating" as the rebels spoke little Indonesian and had no reference point to relate with the outside world. But Miss Klein and Mr Van

der Wal praised the local Irianese for their help. "It was they who supplied us with food in any way they could and also gave us their sincere sympathies. In fact, we have been treated like guests by the majority of the indigenous people, or even as family members."

More details about the ordeal have emerged from Markus Warib, 36, hostage and university lecturer. He said: "We often marched all day and made camp in the forest. We usually stayed in each camp for two to three days and then moved on."

On May 8 the hostages were convinced they were going to be freed after all parties had agreed to the release. "By then the female hostages were wearing bark dresses and we had all lost our clothes. But then Kelly Kwalik [the rebel leader] said he would not release us until he had obtained freedom for West Papua."

"We were disappointed and everyone began to cry. Efforts that night to persuade Kelly to change his mind failed."

"During the next five days we were kept on the move from dawn until dusk and slept on the paths. It was not often a good path, obstructed by many large rocks, and was very slippery. If the army was around, we had to hide and stay very quiet."

"I began to notice the change of attitudes on the part of the kidnappers once we were being chased. Formerly they had been quite chummy, chatting with us and eating together. However, on the first night of the military chase they became wild and primitive."



Klein intends to return to jungle after baby

Fun and games in Jakarta

Jakarta: The 1996 Highland Games season opens tomorrow at the most unlikely of venues — not amid the rolling hills of Scotland, but 7,500 miles away on a parched playing field in the Indonesian capital (A Correspondent writes). Six hundred competi-

tors from all over the world will participate in what organisers claim to be the largest such gathering outside the Highlands. "Heavies" have been imported from Scotland to toss the caber, throw the hammer and putt the shot. Profits go to charity.

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Outnumbered rebels and Russian troops ready for peace as conflict enters second summer

Chechen leaders give Yeltsin chance for election coup

IT WAS an unlikely setting for a truly dramatic announcement, but after 17 months of war President Yeltsin was to hold the first face-to-face meeting with the leader of the Chechen separatist rebels.

Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen commander-in-chief who is also the strategic planner of the resistance movement, was in the middle of a beech wood in south-eastern Chechnya. Sitting on a tree trunk in grey camouflage fatigues, he blended into the pastoral setting. Cuckoos sounded through the woods as he talked to *The Times* and three other European correspondents. Only a few mean-looking guards with Kalashnikovs marked the tranquillity.

Colonel Maskhadov, a former Soviet artillery officer, announced that Zelimkhan Yandartiyev, the new Chechen President, would meet Mr Yeltsin in the Kremlin on Monday. This is a meeting his predecessor, Dzhokhar Dudayev, sought for four years but never obtained.

The Chechen leadership gave the go-ahead for the talks after a two-day meeting near the ancient village of Vedeno, the mountain stronghold of



Among the tranquil beech woods in Alleroi, Chechnya, the separatists' new commander talks to Thomas de Waal about the onset of war weariness

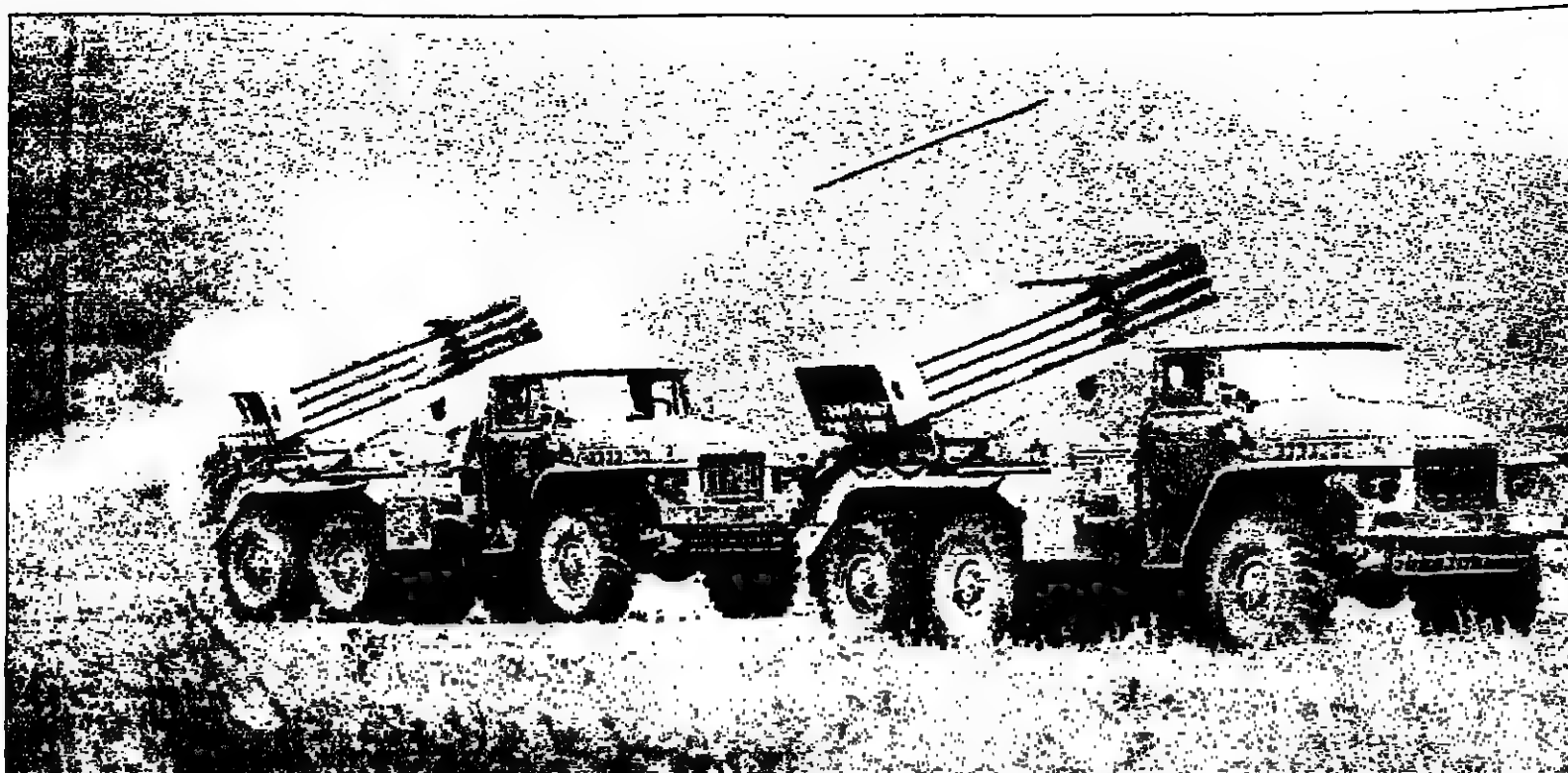
Imam Shamil, the famous warrior of the Caucasian wars. "Of course we are afraid," Colonel Maskhadov said of a meeting that is politically risky for both sides. But he said the will for peace on both sides was very strong as the war entered its second summer. The issue of Chechnya's declaration of independence, which triggered the war, would be "left to one side" and the talks would focus on ending the fighting.

The reasons for war weariness are not hard to find. The tiny Chechen guerrilla army is still fighting on, but is vastly outnumbered and they know they cannot win a military victory. The Chechen leaders admit this more openly now than their first leader General Dudayev, who vowed to fight "to the last Chechen", is dead.

The Russians are also losing a war in which the Chechen partisans are everywhere and

anywhere. They have suffered heavy losses in the past three months, fighting hard to capture positions only to withdraw and see them recaptured days later. The fighters are as mobile as ever. Driving for two hours right across eastern Chechnya, we did not encounter a single Russian checkpoint. "They are coming down from the hills and leaving," Colonel Maskhadov said of the Russian forces.

The Russians have also carried out soundings and confirmed that the new Chechen leadership is holding together and cannot be split apart. At the Vedeno meeting all the field commanders, including the legendary Shamil Basayev who led the bloody raid on the town of Budennovsk last year, endorsed the new peace plan. "We have a more united, more collective leadership now," said Rashid, a young com-



Russian Grad missile launchers shell Bamut in Chechnya on Thursday as both sides prepare for Monday's Kremlin peace negotiations

mander. The only conditions the Chechens are insisting on are that President Yeltsin declares he had no part in the death of General Dudayev on April 21 and promises not to stage any more assassination attempts on Chechen leaders.

In return, Colonel Maskhadov guarantees to put a freeze on plans for terrorist operations, such as the one at Budennovsk. "We are still not touching Russia's most painful spot by conducting another

kind of war inside Russia," he said. "We are trying to restrain the people who are preparing this."

Here is the most curious part of the scheme, because by agreeing to talks the Chechen rebels are effectively endorsing President Yeltsin for re-election on June 16.

Colonel Maskhadov said his fighters had rebuffed ten attacks on the village of Bamut, which the Russians have tried to capture for more than 16 months. The former

missile base no longer had any "strategic value", he said, but it was an "inspiration" to his fighters. Yet he was ready to withdraw from it at any time.

It was hard not to see that Colonel Maskhadov and his plan could have a decisive influence on Mr Yeltsin's chances of re-election. The grey-haired commander in the woods laughed at our last question. Could he give Bamut to President Yeltsin as a "present", to boost the peace process? "I can," he said.

Fighting 'stepped up'

Moscow: Russian artillery was yesterday reported to be battering the Chechen stronghold of Bamut. Witnesses described the fighting as some of the worst in the region for weeks, with Chechen rebels holed up in a disused Soviet nuclear launch site.

However, General Mikhail Kolesnikov, Russia's Chief of Staff, claimed that troops had seized the village, which has

been holding out against Russian forces for more than a year.

"This is the final major special operation in Chechnya," General Kolesnikov told parliament. "The enemy has understood the pointlessness of open conflict with federal forces." He said the rebel strategy had switched to terrorist action by small groups. (Reuters)

Pollsters see Zyuganov falling at second hurdle

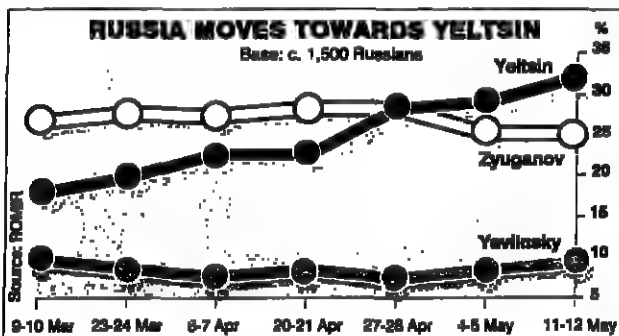
By Robert Worcester

IN THREE weeks' time Russian history will be made, for a President will be elected in a free democratic election. As the poll heads towards its June 16 finale, at least for the first round, it would appear that President Yeltsin is headed for victory.

Tracking polls conducted by the respected Romir organisation, used by MORI and the United States Information Agency (USIA) among others, show that, after a faltering start with many "don't knows", sentiment is moving towards the sometimes ill, often erratic Mr Yeltsin.

The latest poll, concluded last week and released in Moscow on Monday, showed him moving into a seven-point lead over the Communist candidate, Gennadi Zyuganov, 51 whose manifesto pledges jobs for all, higher wages and pensions, compensation for those who have lost their savings due to inflation, enforced law and order, protection against imports and higher defence spending. These pledges notwithstanding, and with Mr Yeltsin's satisfaction rating at 16 per cent below John Major's, Mr Yeltsin is still pulling ahead and Mr Zyuganov seems to have peaked.

In all, there are 11 candidates, including Mikhail Gorbachev, who obtained only one vote in a hundred in the poll. In third place was Gligori Yavlinsky, an econo-



mist and head of the liberal Yabloko party, with under 10 per cent. Since the start of the campaign, the "others" and the "don't knows" have fallen from about half to a third of the electorate. 85 per cent of whom say they will vote.

If one candidate does not

6 Russian sentiment is moving towards the sometimes ill, often erratic, Mr Yeltsin 9

receive a majority on June 16, the contest goes to a second round. Under those conditions, Mr Yeltsin now leads Mr Zyuganov by ten points.

A recent *New York Times* article, by Michael Specter, about the state of Russian polling raised eyebrows at last week's World Association of Public Opinion Research, meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. In it he quoted sceptics querying the accuracy of Russian polling, yet described them as both influential and popular. Yelena Bashkirova, director of Romir, was scathing about his article, pointing out that he had some of his facts wrong and had contradicted himself. Her paper at the conference pointed out the strong dependence on the traditions of the Russians, who have a lack of patience and a desire to see problems

solved "immediately" and "completely".

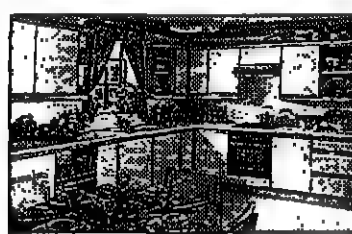
She believes that the democratic achievements in recent years make a totalitarian restoration impossible, despite widespread dissatisfaction with the current economic conditions of the country.

There are many polling firms now operating in Russia. Another paper at the conference, by USIA's Richard Dobson, reported that, bad as the mood of the nation is, it has improved since last year when the war in Chechnya was entering its fifth month; at that time a USIA-sponsored poll found that more than three-quarters of Russians thought that things were going in the wrong direction. The war grinds on, but there has been an improvement, with now two-thirds saying things are going wrong.

According to him, the pollsters tended to underestimate the Communists' support: if this should happen on June 16, it would cause a closer first-round result and almost certainly a run-off.

Another respected firm, VCIOM, the Russian Centre for Public Opinion and Market Research, asked in its poll who the Russians thought would win. In February, Mr Yeltsin and Mr Zyuganov each received a fifth of the votes; in April, however, Mr Yeltsin received twice the vote of Mr Zyuganov. My guess, at this point, is that Mr Yeltsin will win, on the second round.

Professor Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI.



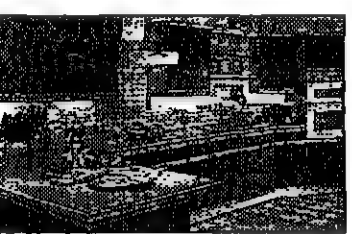
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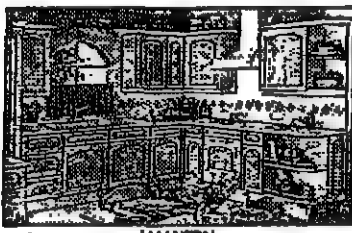


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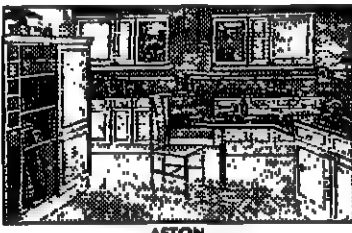
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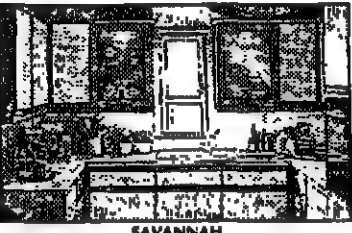
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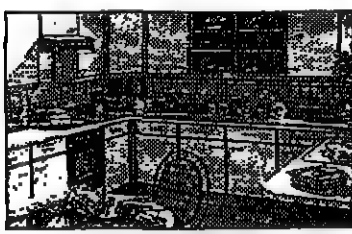


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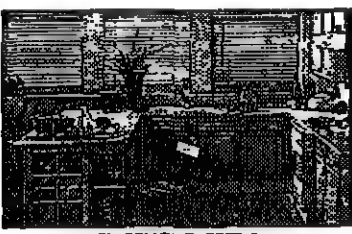


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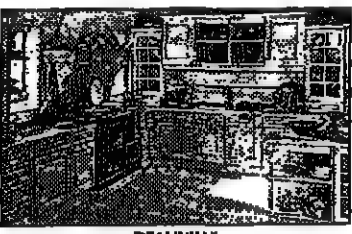
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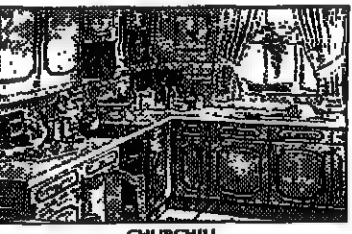
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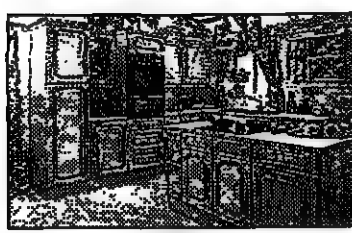


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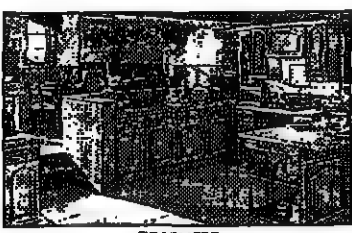


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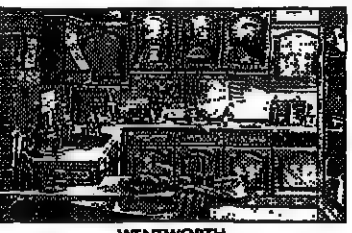
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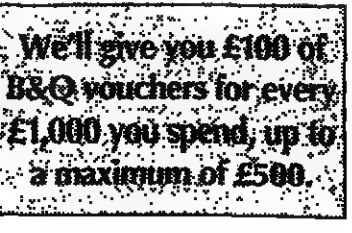
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Major pushes for war crimes trial of Serb chieftains

By STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR visited Bosnia yesterday to gauge the success of the Dayton peace accord, which ended four years of war, and to bolster the morale of British troops serving as part of the Nato-led peace implementation force (Ifor).

His one-day trip, which included meetings with opposition Bosnian Serb leaders in Banja Luka, made him the first Western leader to visit the Bosnian Serb republic. In Sarajevo, he met President Izetbegovic of Bosnia.

But Mr Major did not travel to Pale, the "capital" of the hardline Bosnian Serb Government, and reaffirmed his support that Bosnian Serb leaders such as Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, both indicted for war crimes, should be handed over to the United Nations tribunal in The Hague. "I wouldn't be content for them to just fade away," he said, referring to criticism that the West was

willing to accept that they just step down from power.

The visit to Banja Luka, where British troops recently moved their headquarters, coincided with an attempt by international mediators to create an urban power base in the Serb republic and isolate the Bosnian Serb leadership. They hoped that Mr Major's meetings with local politicians, including the moderate Rajko Kasagic, who was removed from power by Dr Karadzic last week, would propel them to take a stand against the hardline leadership.

Speaking to troops at the British base in Sipovo, the Prime Minister said he believed no other nation had made as great a contribution to peace in Bosnia as Britain.

"On every occasion I have been here, I have been struck by the sheer scale of the contribution you have made here," he said. Mr Major was cheered by dozens of local

residents as he took an impromptu walk through the town, and trailed by an enthusiastic crowd of children.

He concluded his visit by meeting President Izetbegovic in Sarajevo, where he reaffirmed his support for the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Earlier Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said in a radio interview that indicted war criminals in the former Yugoslavia will not be allowed to escape justice. He said: "These war criminals must be brought to justice and they will be. The international community will not forget about these people. They will never have another quiet day in their lives because one day there will be a knock at the door."

Speaking on BBC Radio's Today programme, he said: "There will never be a full peace in Bosnia until people who have committed atrocities are brought to justice."



John Major meets British troops at their new headquarters in Banja Luka in Bosnian Serb territory yesterday

Hamas is urged to rein in bombers

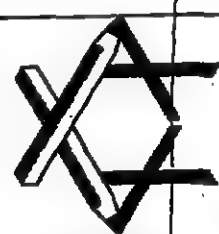
FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISLAMIC suicide bombers were under growing Palestinian pressure yesterday to halt their campaign before Wednesday's Israeli election, thus boosting the chances of Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister. The Labour candidate is only just ahead of Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Likud leader, in the opinion polls.

The poll, which could decide the future of the Middle East peace process, has provoked a split within Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement; leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip oppose more bombing, while their counterparts in Muslim countries abroad are calling for continued attacks.

Israel will be deploying an unprecedented force of 20,000 soldiers and police to try to prevent the kind of attack against a Jewish target that most independent political analysts are convinced could reverse Mr Peres's slender lead.

Labour's hopes were boosted by reports last night from an unnamed Hamas official that the jailed spiritual leader



ISRAELI ELECTION

Lollipop lady held over drugs

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A PRIMARY school lollipop lady has been arrested and charged with selling heroin which was packaged to look like sweets.

Amariles Martinez had 20 bags of heroin under her uniform when she was arrested by undercover police. Moments earlier she had been helping six-year-olds to cross a busy road in Brooklyn, New York.

Ms Martinez, who has been charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance within 1,000ft of a school, shouted "I wasn't selling to kids", as she was led away. The heroin was wrapped in brightly coloured paper made to look like the packaging for a popular children's chew called Now and Later.

An undercover detective on routine surveillance duty said he saw Ms Martinez approached by a suspicious-looking man who gave her a parcel. Astonished, the detective wandered up to Ms Martinez and, pretending to be an addict, asked if she knew where he could get drugs. She directed him to a local pizza parlour where a dealer was later arrested.

Sgt George O'Brien of the local anti-narcotics squad said: "It's a good feeling to get these guys."

of the organisation, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, had told visitors on Wednesday that he would urge supporters to suspend attacks against Israel before the elections. However, only a few months ago pledges of a ceasefire from Hamas members were followed by four suicide-bomb attacks in which more than 60 people were killed.

Last Saturday, Ibrahim Ghoseh, the Hamas spokesman in Jordan, added to the confusion by stating that the group's real position was to call for more attacks against Israel.

Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, the main recruiting ground for suicide bombers, estimate that up to 80 per cent of supporters favour a temporary suspension of armed attacks, at least until after the election has been held.

□ Holiday riots: Ultra-Orthodox Jews returning from prayers for the Jewish Shavuot holiday at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall rioted in Arab areas of the city yesterday smashing cars and overturning grocery stalls. (AP)

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EXECUTIVE VOICE 24

John Bridgeman
on merits of
competition

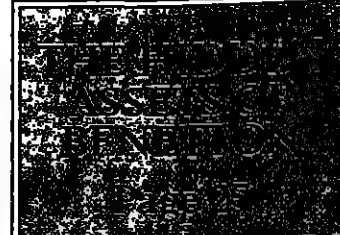
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WORKING WEEK 24

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SPORT 38-44

Athletics thrown
by Sanderson's
distant ambitions



THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MAY 25 1996

Wise man Minford to advise 'pyramid scam'

By Robert Miller

PATRICK MINFORD, one of Britain's most respected economists and a member of the Treasury's inner circle of 'wise men', has been retained to advise on the reorganisation of an international money-making scheme described in Parliament as 'an iniquitous pyramid selling scam'.

Professor Minford yesterday confirmed that the Titan Business Club and its associate companies in the UK had retained his services on a consultancy basis to advise on the reorganisation of the scheme, which originates in Germany. This week, in the High Court, the Department of

Trade and Industry began moves to close the operation down.

Professor Minford said: 'I'm basically doing some consultancy work in return for a fee to help to advise on the restructuring of Titan prior to a flotation on the Nasdaq stock market in the US.' The new company will be known as Titan Incorporated.

Senior DTI officials last night expressed serious reservations about the Titan operation. They are concerned that the inflow of money might slow to a trickle or stop altogether as members, who are recruited at packed meetings around the country often attended by more than 1,000 people, sign up. In that event, DTI sources

say that people could lose not just their own money but that they may also have persuaded friends and relatives to sign up as well.

Until this week, the Titan Business Club charged a joining fee of £2,500 which is refunded once the member signs up a further four people. Under Titan Inc rules, the joining fee will be raised to £3,000.

Charles Buckley, the lawyer acting for Titan, said: 'The money will go in commission to recruiters and to management and to the research and development facility. This will be ring-fenced by an international committee of blue chip members who will vet and award grants to applicants for new

inventions. The new company will sell its own shares and people will be able to trade them on Nasdaq.'

Mr Buckley, who has retained the services of four leading QCs to fight the DTI case against Titan, due to be heard on June 10, said that in spite of the adverse publicity surrounding the scheme, about 9,000 people had attended meetings this week. He added that since last October up to 8,000 people had signed up, bringing the money raised to about £20 million.

In the High Court, Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, said this week that he was not yet satisfied that the Titan scheme should be classified

illegal as the DTI has requested but that 'public interest might require it to be stopped... the people who are being invited to participate are all adults and are at liberty to make foolish or wise use of their money.'

In a Parliamentary debate last month, David Rendel, Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, raised concerns about the Titan scheme calling it 'an iniquitous pyramid selling scam'. He said yesterday: 'I am very concerned that the public fully understands the Titan operation so that they know what they are doing before they let themselves in for considerable expense which they may not be able to recover.'

WEEKEND MONEY



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Anne Ashworth
on the silence of
the life companies

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you higher up
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choice. The penalty
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Life is getting
cheaper. Another
Virgin debut



HSBC attacked over bonuses

By Oliver August

AN INCENTIVE scheme that could earn directors of HSBC Holdings, parent company of Midland Bank, a total of up to £16 million has come under fire from institutional investors.

Pensions and Investment Research Consultants (PIRC) claims that the HSBC scheme is the most excessive it has so far encountered, and is urging investors to vote it down at the company's annual meeting next week. PIRC contends the scheme is particularly contentious for 'rewarding mediocre performance'.

Anne Simpson, a PIRC director, said: 'We are looking for incentive schemes which align the interests of shareholders and directors, rather than a 'jackpot payout' for perfectly routine and unexceptional performance.'

Directors will receive their bonuses if real earnings per share grow by only 2 to 2.5 per cent above inflation. PIRC calculated that, on current salaries, £10 million could be awarded to the six directors.

If fringe benefits are taken into account, the sum could be even higher. 'If total remuneration is taken as the base, then £16 million could be paid out in total share awards under

this and other existing schemes,' Ms Simpson said. Under the terms of the scheme, HSBC's remuneration committee has complete discretion over the award of shares up to a maximum level.

HSBC yesterday strongly rejected PIRC's criticism. Douglas Flint, group finance director, said: 'Their calculations are absolutely absurd. They have taken the maximum amount possible for every variable. But it is not our intention to take the maximum. We are a group founded on strong Scottish principle.'

'In the report, the remuneration is also set out for sustained performance over four years, not just on an annual basis. The highest paid director is receiving something in the order of £700,000,' he said. 'We are just miles away from what they set out. The awards will be no more than half of what we got under the old share options scheme.'

Mr Flint added: 'This scheme won't commence for another year. Between now and then the remuneration committee has discretion to change the scheme again.'

PIRC has written to key shareholders in HSBC urging them to reject the remuneration package at the annual meeting next Friday. The main shareholders are Standard Life, Legal & General and the Prudential.

The Prudential was itself a target of PIRC criticism over directors' pay last week. One of the main opponents of the Prudential's remuneration for directors was Standard Life.

PIRC's action reflects increased investor militancy on aspects of corporate governance, particularly pay. PIRC has in recent weeks launched campaigns against Shell, Incecape and the Prudential. At least 21 of the top 350 companies have put new incentive schemes to the vote in 1996. According to PIRC, the highest award was a bonus of 125 per cent of directors' pay, compared to 400 per cent calculated for HSBC.

With this backdrop, HSBC can expect a controversial AGM. It is no stranger to these. At the AGM last year of Midland Bank, a subsidiary, a tank arrived to protest against arms sales in which the company was allegedly involved.



Roy Ackerman, right, chairman of Restaurant Partnership, whose eateries include Gay Hussar and L'Etoile in London, has recruited Paul Breach, left, the former president of the Europe and African division of Seagram, as chief executive.

Hollinger seeks UK listing

By Eric Reguly

CONRAD BLACK'S Telegraph group, which will disappear from the London Stock Exchange this summer, is to stage a return in another guise.

Hollinger International, the American company that will own all of The Telegraph after its minority shareholders are bought out for £273 million, is seeking a listing on the London exchange and should start trading by the autumn.

Dan Colson, chief executive of The Telegraph, publisher of The Daily Telegraph and its Sunday sister, said yesterday: 'A London listing will help provide a broad and diverse shareholder base for our group, and there are a lot of

UK investors who were disappointed when we announced The Telegraph would be privatised.'

Hollinger International, based in Chicago, is paying 570p a share for the 36 per cent of The Telegraph that it does not already own. The move comes a year after the failure of the first attempt to buy the minority shares at 470p apiece. A year earlier, Mr Black lost some of his support in the City when he reduced the cover price of The Daily Telegraph, a move which caused Telegraph shares to plummet to 350p, shortly after selling 125 million Telegraph shares to institutions at 587p.

Hollinger International,

listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has become the main investment vehicle for Mr Black. Hollinger International is owned 66 per cent by Hollinger Inc of Toronto, which controls Mr Black's collection of Canadian newspapers.

Mr Colson said that The Telegraph group probably will sell its 25 per cent stake in John Fairfax of Australia, owner of The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, Melbourne, unless the new Government in Canberra eases media ownership to the point that The Telegraph can take control. 'We have 25 per cent of the profits and 100 per cent of the aggravation,' he said.

Our bet's on Blair, says bank

By Robert Miller

TONY BLAIR'S new Labour Party has received a welcome boost from a leading City banking house in its annual investment trust review, regarded by many as the private investor's bible.

The 1996 Investment Trust Year Book, published by Credit Lyonnais Laing (CLL), yesterday said it would base its investment outlook on 'the political certainty of a Labour Government'.

The endorsement could lead to other

fund managers admitting publicly what they have said in private for many months now. CLL said: 'We are as certain as we can be that the Labour Party will form the next UK Government.' It added: 'The decision to pin our colours to the mast in such a high-profile fashion has not been taken lightly.'

The investment trust movement, which now boasts some 340 trusts and looks after £56 billion of assets, has traditionally been the preserve of the more knowledgeable private investor. Peter Walls, an analyst

with CLL and a co-author of the annual, said: 'Investment trust investors are generally discerning and tend to be conservative with a small 'c' as well as a large 'c'.'

Ernest Fenton, director-general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, said: 'The average age of the typical investor is 50-plus and they are typically conservative in their investment and general outlook.'

Weekend Money, page 32

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3752.1	(+5.1)
Yield	4.02%	
FT-SE A All share	1885.87	(+0.83)
Nikkei	21796.65	(+14.35)
New York		
Dow Jones	5770.98	(+8.89)
S&P Composite	678.12	(+0.12)
3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Life long gilt	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Life long gilt	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
New York		
Dow Jones	1,511.8	(1,512.8)
FT-SE	1,512.9	(1,512.8)
NY	2,331.0	(2,330.1)
FT-SE	7,251.0	(7,250.9)
NY	1,513.6	(1,513.2)
Yen	182.85	(181.51)
£ Index	94.5	(94.4)
\$ Index	97.2	(97.2)
Tokyo close Yen 107.10		
Brant 15-day (Aug)	\$18.40	(\$18.30)
London close	\$280.85	(\$281.59)

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Why open competition is better than regulation

In an ideal world, the benefits of competitive and fair trading will be appreciated as much by business as by the consumer, but experience suggests that this particular contract is not always easily understood.

Where is the shareholder benefit in not using hard-won monopoly power to exclude rivals? And is it realistic to ask financial institutions to give "best advice" to borrowers if, in doing so, they fail to sell the latest innovative and most profitable financial product?

After 30 years in business and a much shorter time as Director-General of Fair Trading I believe the benefits to be gained from a marketplace which is open in the fullest sense are clear and unequivocal. An open market is one in which consumers are given choice of many products and services and the information to make that choice. It is also a market where business competes vigorously to provide what the consumer wants, which newcomers can readily enter and where the conflicting forces of

supply and demand determine both the immediate market price and the future revenue stream.

Competition ensures that managers have continually to seek new ways of making their business more efficient, of reducing their cost base and of being more innovative in satisfying the needs of their customers. Without a low cost base, it is difficult to compete on price; without investment in innovation it is difficult to compete with variety. It is vigorous competition which fuels the need to outperform business rivals. To quote Professor Michael Porter, a strongly competitive home market is the key to durable international success. He cites the five forces of competition as: rivalry among existing firms, the threat of new entrants, the bargaining power of both suppliers and customers and the threat of competition from substitute products or services.

Unfortunately, large dominant firms are too often inefficient, lethargic and tempted to behave anti-competitively rather than win market share by virtue of superior

efficiency and effectiveness. Every one involved in the "contract" is then a loser; the company maintains its inefficiency, potential rivals find the marketplace is closed to them and the consumer is robbed of choice and the chance to secure best value for money. Sometimes regulators have to step in to ensure that competition does work effectively.

But competition is not always sufficient. Consumers need to be adequately protected not only against the abuse of market power for monopoly, but also against unfair or misleading selling techniques. Consumer protection and competition policy are integrally linked.

In the 12 months to September 1995, more than 806,000 complaints from consumers were notified to trading standards departments throughout the country. This represents only the tip of the iceberg but gives some indication of the scale of the problem. How many of these complaints, I wonder, were settled to the consumer's satisfaction? This is where my consumer

EXECUTIVE VOICE



John Bridgeman

protection functions come in. I have the power to curb the behaviour of rogue traders, issue licences to those wishing to deal in consumer credit and seek court orders to stop companies from using unfair terms in consumer contracts. But strengthening the hand of consumers does not mean that I am opposed to the legitimate interests of business. Nor, I hope, would business see it that way. I support competi-

tive businesses as much as I support demanding, well-informed consumers. Consumer power should be seen as a force for the proper functioning of the marketplace. Ensuring that the consumer is well informed about products and services is a fundamental principle in fair trading.

The proper operation of consumer credit, for instance, demands the exercise of responsibility by both the borrower and the lender acting within the framework of a part of our law which is the envy of much of the rest of the world. My predecessors have on various occasions in the past seen fit to remind lenders of their particular responsibilities. No one in the business of lending needs me to tell them that when credit goes wrong it is expensive for the lender. Lenders must inevitably pass on their costs to their customers or cease trading. So lenders have a very strong interest in making sound lending decisions.

But lenders do not always adopt the minimising of bad debt as an overriding priority in the marketing

of a product, and businesses which create the possibility of bad debt surely carry some responsibility for helping borrowers who get into difficulties. This is not only through acceptance of the need for rescheduling of repayments, but also through promoting and paying for more active support systems.

If the handling of complaints can tell us a lot about the quality of service provided by a particular business, the rigour with which adherence to a voluntary code of practice is monitored by an industry can tell us a lot about the quality of that industry as a whole.

I am absolutely in favour of vigorous competition as an alternative to regulation, but I am also in favour of self-regulation as an alternative to statutory regulation. Industry self-regulation reduces the administrative burden on firms and public expenditure. Codes of practice can provide benefits to consumers, but there are normally two main problems: persuading all firms to participate and ensuring that the system is adequately po-

liced. The latter problem is probably the most serious shortcoming in the draft of a new Code of Lending Practice produced by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The building societies' attempts to promulgate best practice in the marketing of mortgages is to be applauded, but without knowing what the sanctions will be against any member failing to observe the code, it must raise some reservations.

I am also puzzled at why the draft code proposes that certain charges payable by borrowers will not necessarily be disclosed voluntarily by lenders. And why will the details of a customers' complaints scheme only be available on request?

The Council will, I hope, produce an exemplary Code of Lending Practice. In the meantime, it seems to me that only when business in the UK comes to a full understanding of all the benefits from a more open, vigorous and competitive marketplace will we be able to question the need for external regulation.

John Bridgeman is Director-General of Fair Trading.

Pace set to float with £250m tag

By FRASER NELSON

PACE Micro Technology, a producer of satellite and cable receivers, is expected to be capitalised at about £250 million when its shares begin trading on the stock market next month. The company's pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday, forecasts profits of £18.1 million before tax for the year to May 31, against £3.36 million in the previous year.

Pace currently produces half of all UK satellite receivers, 50 per cent of which are sold under its own name. The company, set up in 1982, moved into the satellite receiver market in 1987. In 1990, it produced VideoCrypt, a smartcard pay system designed for BSkyB. International orders from The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, now make up 27 per cent of sales.

David Hood and Barry Rubery, joint chief executives, said that the flotation should raise at least £20 million, which would be put towards developing its digital terrestrial receivers. Share dealings are to begin on June 20. The share placing is sponsored by BZW.

Lucas close to unveiling terms of Varsity deal

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LUCAS INDUSTRIES and Varsity Corporation are close to concluding a £3 billion merger which would create one of the world's largest brake manufacturers.

Lucas said yesterday that talks between the two companies were going well and that a deal could be announced early next month.

But an announcement of merger terms could yet flush out a hostile counterbid for Lucas, long considered vulnerable to takeover. Those considered possible suitors include TI Group, BTR, and General Motors of the US.

Lucas and Varsity are understood to have agreed to combine Kelsey-Hayes, Varsity's braking subsidiary, with Lucas's brakes business. The other divisions, including Lucas's aerospace and Varsity's diesel businesses, would continue to be run as now. Lucas has made it clear that, contrary to speculation, it does not

wish to sell its aerospace division.

Lucas shares closed down 2p at 235p, having risen this week on speculation that a deal was about to be announced.

A merger would bring together Kelsey-Hayes's ABS expertise and Lucas's strength in foundation brakes, meaning they could offer car manufacturers complete capability. It would also offer Lucas access to the US market for brakes and Kelsey-Hayes access to Europe.

The two companies were inspired to start talking after Robert Bosch, the ABS specialist, paid £1.1 billion for Allied-Signal's Bendix foundation brakes business earlier this year.

The board of Lucas met to discuss the outline of an agreement yesterday and talks with Varsity are expected to continue next week. If a merger proceeds, Victor Rice, the head of Varsity, is likely to become chief executive. George Simpson, Lucas's current chief executive, is to move to GEC this autumn where he will succeed Lord Weinstock. Sir Brian Pearce, chairman of Lucas, would chair the merged company.

City analysts expect a share split, giving Lucas up to 65 per cent of the new company, but warned that this might not go down well with Varsity's US shareholders who could be tempted by a cash offer by another company.

Sources close to Lucas said that such an offer is unlikely because its shares are now relatively expensive. However, Zafar Khan, of SGST, pointed out that a potential predator would want to move before a merger with Varsity made Lucas too big: "We see a strong possibility a merger deal might flush out another party," Mr Khan said.



Ralph Findlay, finance director of Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, left, and David Thompson, managing director, reported interim pre-tax profits little changed at £18.1 million, against £17.9 million. The dividend rises to 6p from 5.4p. Tempus, Page 26

Investing declines as stock levels rise

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STOCK levels in British companies continued to rise in the first quarter of this year while investment fell, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Stocks increased by £706 million, after a rise of £1.04 billion in the final quarter of last year. Economists had expected that firms would have started running down stock levels after building them up involuntarily last year because of weak demand. However, firms still seem to be struggling to off-load their inventories, which bodes ill for growth this year.

Nevertheless, manufacturers built up stocks by far less than late last year, suggesting that demand may be improving. Retailers increased their stocks at a greater rate, but this may be a voluntary phenomenon reflecting improving consumer demand. The NTC Research company yesterday reported that, in April, its forward indicator of consumer activity reached its highest level since July 1994.

First-quarter manufacturing investment fell 2 per cent from the previous quarter and was only 1 per cent up on a year ago.

US assesses Lloyd's for mail fraud

A FEDERAL investigation has been launched in America into whether Lloyd's of London committed mail fraud when it solicited Americans to become names. Having the US Government dig into fraud allegations already investigated by securities regulators in a dozen states could cause legal complications for Lloyd's as it tries to negotiate settlements of lawsuits and get on with restructuring.

The US Postal Inspection Service has sent questionnaires to some of the 3,000 US investors. Detailed questions touch on the pivotal issue of whether Lloyd's misled investors about the risks of joining the insurance market. One question asks: "Do you feel that misrepresentations were made to you in connection with your decisions to participate in Lloyd's?" A spokeswoman for the Postal Inspector's office said that the inquiry had been begun after complaints from names were forwarded by the US Justice Department's office in New York. Lloyd's said that it is aware of the questionnaire.

UK firms eye Swedbus

STAGECOACH and Firstbus, the two leading British bus operators, are understood to be among seven groups interested in bidding for Swedbus, the Swedish bus operator being sold by Sweden's state railways. The two UK companies would not comment, but are understood to have signed letters of intent for the Swedish privatisation, forecast to carry a price tag of about £1 billion (£97 million). Swedbus, one of Scandinavia's leading bus operators, made a profit, after financial items, of Kr111 million in 1995, on turnover of Kr3.5 billion.

Govan yard wins order

A £50 million order announced by Kvaerner Govan shipyard in Glasgow will preserve the jobs of the 1,300-strong workforce until summer 1997. It also offers extra temporary jobs, said the company, part of Kvaerner, the Norwegian industrial group. The contract is with J O Tankers, of Norway, which owns the world's fourth-largest fleet of chemical tankers, for a 36,800-tonne, environmentally friendly chemical carrier. The vessel will be a sister ship to the Clyde yard's J O Selje, named by the Queen in October 1993. Delivery is scheduled for spring 1998.

GET falls but pays out

SHARES in GET, the electrical supplies group that floated on the stock market in February 1995 at 125p, fell 25p to 62p yesterday after the company disclosed a 63 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £532,000 for the six months to February 29. Operating profit was down 58 per cent to £733,000. Earnings dropped 72 per cent to 2.16p a share. There is a maiden interim dividend of 0.5p a share. The company said that it was seeking to shift its dependency on cable and flex sales, which shrunk by 15 per cent.

Graham issues alert

GRAHAM GROUP, the builders' merchant, yesterday warned shareholders that first-half profits will be significantly lower than last year. Graham had been on course for current-year profits of between £22 million and £25 million, but analysts have cut estimates to about £15 million. Speaking at Graham's annual meeting, Ian Mills, chief executive, blamed problems in the housing market as demand for items from heating products through to bricks remains flat. Shares in Graham, which has 195 branches, fell 14p, to 165p.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.01	1.86
Austria Sch	17.42	15.32
Belgium Fr	80.88	48.88
Canada C	2.189	2.022
Cyprus Cyp£	0.783	0.808
Denmark Kr	9.58	8.78
Finland Mk	7.75	7.10
France Fr	9.51	7.88
Germany DM	2.48	2.28
Greece Dr	364.00	368.00
Hong Kong \$	12.38	11.38
Ireland Ir£	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	6.3400	4.6900
Italy Lit	2470.00	2215.00
Japan Yen	178.25	160.50
Malta	0.980	0.935
Netherlands Gld	2.782	2.532
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.14
Norway Kr	10.54	9.74
Portugal Esc	280.35	282.00
S Africa R	7.17	6.27
Spain Ptas	801.50	188.50
Sweden Kr	10.88	10.18
Switzerland Fr	2.05	1.87
Turkey Lira	122140	114140
USA \$	1.615	1.482

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates set at close of trading yesterday.

Insurers fail to make full disclosures

MANY of the UK's biggest life insurance companies are refusing to reveal the charges and performance of their policies, in spite of the introduction of rules 18 months ago that made this a mandatory requirement (Caroline Murrell writes).

A survey published this week by Money Marketing, the trade magazine, questioned a total of 54 companies about their with-profits life insurance and personal pension policies — only 37 provided full details.

Comment, page 29
Details, page 30

BAT shares rise after smokers lose in court

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES of BAT, the tobacco and insurance group, rose yesterday after a US federal appeals court dismissed a class action lawsuit which could have resulted in millions of smokers suing the tobacco companies.

The court ruled that smokers could sue the tobacco companies individually, but could not bring a class-action suit that would set a precedent for universal damages.

BAT shares yesterday rose 19p to 521p after the ruling, which eases the company's liability worries. Brown and Williamson, BAT's subsid-

iary, is the second-largest tobacco company in America. The ruling also sent tobacco shares soaring in the US. Anti-smoking campaigners in the US said they would continue their campaign. Lawyers are preparing to launch similar class action cases at state level.

The latest case involved three New Orleans smokers who claimed that the addictive qualities of cigarettes had prevented them from giving up smoking. Lawyers had hoped to set a precedent to enable millions of other smokers to claim damages running into billions of dollars.

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

A WORKING WEEK FOR: STEVE THOMAS

Host stays in tune for a night to remember

Sarah Bagnall checks out the bright lights with the executive behind the flotation of a group of discos, theme bars and restaurants

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

IN A typical week, Steve Thomas might dance a night or two away at a discotheque, visit a police station and make a court appearance. But Thomas, 43, is no hardened lout who ends a drunken night out with a good fight that leaves him nursing a bloody nose. Thomas's trips are all part of a day's work in his capacity as chief executive of Luminar, the newly floated discotheque, theme bar and restaurant group.

Thomas, a Welshman, set up Luminar in 1988 with two fellow directors and a capital base of £23,000. From a single discotheque in King's Lynn, the group has grown into a business with a £21 million turnover, operating 18 discos and 14 Chicago Rock Cafés, of which the latter offer customers the chance to eat, drink and dance the night away under the same roof.

The formats have proved successful in pulling the punters in, and on Tuesday Luminar's shares made their debut on the London stock market. Within minutes, the shares raced ahead of the placing price of 200p and ended the week at 266p, valuing the company at £39.9 million.

Thomas has the hallmarks of a nightclub owner. He is larger than life, with the build of a rugby player and a laugh that comes easily and often. His conversation is punctuated with jokes and wisecracks that prompt him to laugh almost as much as the listener.

Thomas and discotheques go back more than 24 years, but before he succumbed to the allure of bright lights and pop music, he underwent training as a car mechanic. "At 15, I did an apprenticeship as a car mechanic. You know what it is like when you start. You are at school and your parents say 'you must get a trade' so you toe the line until you have something to fall back on, and then you go and do what you want to do," he says.

Thomas enjoyed clubbing and so it was that he dived into the monkey wrench and entered the world of entertainment. "The trouble with being a car mechanic is that you get your hands dirty and I didn't like that. I enjoyed going to clubs and I thought this is really what I want to do. That was seven stone ago," he says breaking into a broad grin and laughing uproariously.

Then, as he lights up a cigarette, he reflects on the past and quips: "The only thing I pull now is my ligaments." Then he quickly adds: "That was a joke. My wife won't like that." Thomas and his wife, Yvonne, married when he was 21. They have two children, Stevie, 10, and Olivia, 5.

His first leisure job was at the age of 17, when he joined the Rank Organisation and worked in a Top Rank Suite, the big

old discotheques of that time. He did various jobs, including stunts as doorman and cloakroom attendant, which have mistakenly led to people thinking Thomas started off as a bouncer.

"I've never been a bouncer or a DJ, but when we were at Ranks we had to do lots of different jobs as part of our training," he explains.

He left seven years later to run his own show. "I was approached by someone who offered me loads and loads of money to open this nightclub in Cambridge. I left and then we opened a second one in Luton," he recalls.

The clubs were called Ronelle, a name that Thomas confesses has strange origins. He chuckles loudly as he explains: "The reason why we called them Ronelles is that when we did our market research we decided we were looking for John Lewis customers. Their trade mark is Jonelle and my partner's name was Ron so we called the discos Ronelle."

Three years later Thomas and Ron sold out to Grosvenor Leisure, which in turn sold the business to Whitbread. "I was sold with the business. I was part of the fixtures and fittings," he says. Then, in 1987, he and two colleagues upped sticks and formed Luminar.

Thomas gives the impression of someone who works as hard as he plays. He needs little sleep, which is just as well given he rarely gets a full night's rest.

He is in the office by 8 o'clock most mornings having travelled the 20-minute journey from his home in Bedfordshire to the group's headquarters in Luton. He then works through his post after which he goes through a

mass of figures, including attendance and pence per head, from the night before. These are punched into a computer so Thomas can immediately see how each venue is trading compared with last week, last month or last year.

Then follows a string of meetings dealing with various issues such as trading, operations and property.

About three or four times a week, Thomas's day is rounded off with a trip to a Chicago Rock Café or disco. Some nights he makes it home by 10.30, and others not until after 2 o'clock the next morning.

It is the time that he spends in the discos and the Chicago that Thomas relishes. It's a wonderful experience to see a room full of a thousand people, some of whom are starting relationships and some finishing relationships. The atmosphere is wonderful. I get a really big kick out of seeing people enjoying themselves," he says.

"You walk into a place and everyone is singing 'hi-ho silver lining' or whatever, and you think 'wow, we have created this'. We have created this because we have brought the right people together to enjoy themselves. A lot of people go for volume just to get people in, but if they aren't enjoying themselves, they won't come



About three or four times a week, Steve Thomas rounds off his day in a Chicago Rock Café or disco and may not get home until 2am. He starts at 8am

back. We actually say 'no' to people just to get the right people in."

Chicago, the first one of which was opened in 1990, caters for 22 to 40-year-olds, is open until 1am, and only plays music up to 1986. "That way you get older customers in and, also, you can't really dance to garage music anyway, can you?" says Thomas.

The discos target a much younger audience of 18 to 24-year-olds and stay open to 2am.

In a right premises and the appropriate planning approvals and late opening and liquor licenses takes up a large chunk of Thomas's time. He was in London last week because of the company's flotation, so he took the opportunity to nip along to the police station in Clapham, south London. This is because Luminar wants to open a Chicago in the area and would like the support of the local licensing officer.

"It was a meeting ahead of the licensing hearing to find out whether the licensing officer has any concerns about the

company or where the premises is. We have the opportunity to talk to him and try to convince him that we are right and that his observations, if he has any, have no foundation," he explains.

Thomas will be back in London for the licensing hearing in the local magistrates' court in Clapham next Wednesday. His regular trips to court are a good show stopper, he says. "When I say I'm in court tomorrow, everybody assumes I've done something wrong."

Before applying for the necessary go-ahead, Thomas and his team will study

an area in some detail. In the case of Clapham, it was a foregone conclusion that there were plenty of potential customers in the area. The key, however, was deciding whether the hordes would be clientele of a Chicago or would march briskly past the door to frequent a rival night spot.

And as far as Thomas is concerned, you can only garner the necessary facts by visiting the area at night. "You know the population is there, but you have to know how people behave on a Friday and Saturday night. So you go there yourself

and then you see that these are the sort of punters I want in my place and that our offering is right."

Given that much of Thomas's life is spent surrounded by other people and in the presence of music, he seeks out time to be alone. "I go and sit on my own. It's rather sad really," he says, not thinking that it was for a minute. A favourite place of his for his required injection of solitude is the car. "I've never turned my radio in. It's wonderful. The silence is great because wherever I go there is so much sound."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Woolly ideals provide more than quality raw materials

The Benettons find owning sheep has brought insight, writes Sarah Bagnall

Say the word Benetton and immediately one conjures up images of woolen jerseys and crisp cotton shirts, controversial advertising campaigns and Formula One racing.

What is unlikely to spring to mind, however, is the fact that the Benetton family, owners of the Italian clothing manufacturer, is the largest sheep breeder in the world.

With about 850,000 hectares of land and ranches in Argentina and more than a quarter of a million sheep, the Benettons have extended their tendrils all the way from raw material to retail.

But the Benetton group's need for wool far outstrips the supply produced from its own sources. Each year the flocks produce about a million kilograms of wool — enough to supply a tenth of the raw material needs of Benetton's 7,000 retail outlets in 120 countries.

The flocks serve another important role, however. The Benettons, who acquired their first Argentinian ranch in 1989 through Edizione Holding, their finance company, spend a significant amount of time and effort researching colour, design and quality of wool.

A spokeswoman for Benetton said the first ranch was acquired in order to obtain a closer understanding of the principal raw material. "They have been involved in every other aspect of the production cycle and so wanted to have a hand in



The Benettons have more than a quarter of a million sheep

this side of the process," she said.

Benetton owns half a dozen ranches in Patagonia, totalling 837,000 hectares and spread across four provinces from Neuquen in the north to Santa Cruz in the south. The ranches, the bulk of which were purchased for \$47.5 million in 1991, hold 280,000 Merino sheep, 9,000

head of cattle, including Hereford bulls, and 1,000 horses.

In a drive to improve the quality of wool, the group has invested \$5 million in the past five years in a range of processes, including artificial insemination. Genetic breeding of the sheep has improved the breed and as a result has upgraded the quality of the wool. "The breeds are now of the quality they used to be at the turn of the century when the English ran the farms," said the spokeswoman. The group is planning to invest a further \$10 million over the next four years.

The company also owns 13,000 hectares in the Belgrano region in the province of Buenos Aires, 80 kilometres from Mar del Plata. As well as a herd of about 11,000 head of cattle — including pedigree stock such as Hereford bulls and Aberdeen Angus — wheat, maize and other agricultural produce are grown on the holding. These crops are sold on the Argentinian market.

The group expanded its empire further last week with the purchase of another Patagonian ranch, comprising 165,000 hectares and holding 45,000 Ovinos Merino crossbreeds.

A major advantage of the group's involvement in sheep breeding is the knowledge it brings to its wool-buying processes. Each year Benetton uses 5,000 tonnes of carded wool, that is combed wool, a demand that makes it the world's biggest consumer.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

US court ruling lights up BAT in lacklustre trading

WALL STREET may be getting ready to celebrate the Dow Jones centenary, but investors on the London stock market were again finding it difficult to get in the party mood.

The equity market overcame political worries and a rare overnight setback for Wall Street, after its recent run, to end a difficult week on a steady note. But there was no disguising the apathy felt by many investors.

The FT-SE 100 index managed to summon the strength to claw back an earlier 14-point deficit, helped by an opening rise in New York.

It ended a lacklustre session 5.1 points up at 3,752.1, a loss on the week of 37.5 points. Trading conditions proved thin, with turnover falling to the lowest level of the week as just 604 million shares changed hands.

The one bright spot among the top 100 companies was BAT Industries, which touched 537p before ending the session 19p dearer at 521p on the back of the US court decision overnight to throw out a class ruling brought against the tobacco companies.

The Castano case has hung like a cloud over the industry, with individuals and various states claiming compensation running into billions of dollars. They allege that the tobacco companies withheld information about the harmful effects of smoking.

Yorkshire Electricity ended the session on a firm note with a rise of 15p at 733p amid vague talk that Scottish Power may be lining up a bid.

The story has been dismissed in some quarters, with brokers pointing out that Scottish Power already owns Manweb. Even so, Scottish 4p off at 336p, is believed to have been locked away in talks with Baring's, its adviser.

British Biotech, which has experienced volatility of late, dropped 18p to 27p, having briefly touched 38p earlier this week. Merrill Lynch unseated the market by suggesting that an American company was developing a cancer treatment to rival Marimastat.

Cortec International rose 22p to 373p after announcing plans to raise £20 million in Japan via a placing of shares. Brokers gave a cool reception to half-year figures from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, with the price tum-



BAT Industries rose 19p on news of the US ruling

bling 31p to 652p. The market wasted little time in downgrading its estimates for the full year after pre-tax profits rose marginally to £18.2 million. UBS, the broker, has cut its forecast by £2 million to £42.5 million.

Frost Group, the petrol retailer, regained some of its composure with a 5p rally to 124p. On Thursday the shares

firm offer of £130 million from BAA Group, which operates Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

Alders is keen to recommend the BAA offer to shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting in June after signing a binding contract on Friday. BAA was unchanged at 498p.

Tesco shrugged off early weakness to finish 5p better at 296p on turnover of almost 12 million shares. NatWest Securities has raised its profit forecast encouraged by improved sales growth. Its estimate for the current year has been increased by £24 million to £721 million and for 1997 by £36 million to £820 million.

were hit by the news that Asda was planning to sell petrol at the price it paid suppliers. But as brokers pointed out, the price charged by Asda is still dearer than some of its rivals.

Asda slipped a further 1p to 117p.

Alders, the department store chain, marked time at 206p despite receiving indications from Swissair that it is prepared to offer £145 million for its duty-free airport shops. Alders has already received a

the first half of 1995.

The news from Graham also pulled the rug from several of its rivals.

Travis Perkins fell 6p to 425p, Meyer International 3p to 430p, and Harrison & Crossfield 1p to 143p. Wolseley, which has extensive overseas interests, also eased 1p to 457p.

Lucas Industries retreated 2p to 235p. Talks with Varity Corporation, the US automotive parts group, are continuing, but the group said an announcement is unlikely until next month.

A spokesman for Lucas said the talks are "proceeding well". City speculators are banking on a merger between the two companies which would create a major player valued at about £3 billion.

One of the biggest moves of the day was seen in Dawson Holdings as the price soared 35p to £16.50. Dawson is taking control of the rest of Surridge Dawson Holdings, the newspaper distributor, by acquiring its other main shareholder.

Dawson and PwJ Surridge own 50 per cent of Surridge Dawson Holdings, which controls 85 per cent of Surridge Dawson Ltd, its only operating subsidiary.

Dawson is paying £15.4 million for PwJ and £5.3 million to 3i for the remaining 15 per cent. Last year Dawson hoisted pre-tax profits from £12.7 million to £14.4 million.

GILO-EDGED: The market managed to close off the bottom after a lacklustre performance that lacked any real direction from US treasury bonds.

Investors proved reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of the bank holiday weekend and Wednesday's £3 billion auction of Treasury 8 per cent 2021.

Despite this, turnover in the futures pit proved encouraging, with a total of 41,000 contracts completed in the June series of the long gilt, which closed a couple of ticks easier at £106.11. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was down 7 1/2 at 197 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost 3 1/2 to £102.72.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street opened with a rush, up almost 27 points, only to fade during the morning. The Dow Jones industrial average was 8.86 points higher by midday at 5,770.98.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5770.98 (+8.86)
S&P Composite	579.12 (+3.12)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei average	21798.43 (+74.59)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11019.16 (+11.08)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	564.28 (+0.48)
Sydney:	
ASX	2254.30 (+1.19)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2548.24 (+1.82)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2261.06 (+15.14)
Brussels:	
General	9450.38 (+15.57)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2117.65 (+3.38)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	799.60 (+1.69)
London:	
FT 30	2785.1 (+1.5)
FT 100	3752.1 (+5.1)
FT-SE Mid 250	4993.0 (+11.4)
FT-SE 250	4993.0 (+11.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1068.85 (+1.99)
FT A&F Share	1083.87 (+0.43)
FT Non Financials	2007.33 (+0.58)
FT Fixed Interest	111.91 (+0.18)
FT Govt Bonds	92.36 (+0.01)
Bergins	3152.2
SEAQ Volume	604.4m
USM (Midwest)	15.127 (+0.005)
USM (East)	2.332 (+0.001)
German Mark	64.9 (+0.1)
Exchange Index	1.287
Bank of England official rate	1.287
ESX	1.088
RPI	152.6 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1987-100
RPI-X	152.0 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM Trust	101	...
Aberforth Sml	102	...
Atlantis Japan Gd	687.7	+ 7
Stomcomposites Uth	140	+ 7
CA Courts (100)	118	...
Emtech	81	+ 35
Epic Multimedia	90	+ 15
Gartmore Select Jan	92	...
Hercules Prop Svcs	65	+ 5
INVESTCO Eng Intl C	101	...
Jus Group	5	...
La Senza (100)	155	...
Laminar (20)	278	+ 8
Malden Group	278	+ 3
Malbury Group	133	+ 5
Premiere Group	133	+ 5
Railtrack (100)	216	- 2
Reflec	85	+ 7
Schroder Venture	194	...
Stentor (72)	93	...
Talwan Inv Tr C	96	...
Thomas Potts	14	+ 2
Tore Hickins	55	...
Vanguard Media	620	+ 3

RIGHTS ISSUES

Chesfield n/p (23)	35	+ 1
Instock n/p (55)	6	...
Porter Chad n/p (34)	6	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISSE:	
Flintco Com	365p (+37p)
Alexon n/p	142p (+12p)
Forward Gp	679p (+70p)
Shawline Hidge	213p (+14p)
Castings	185p (+12p)
Corcor	373p (+22p)
Capelight	585p (+12p)
Cobham	639p (+10p)
S&U	440p (+10p)
BAT	521p (+19p)
Chiroscience	470p (+12p)
FALLS:	
Fenchurch Gp	119p (-10p)
Caltech	618p (-30p)
Wagon Ind	360p (-10p)
Darke Be Sys	785p (-20p)
GUS	685p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 37

TEMPUS

Pressure at the pumps

ASDA made a song and dance this week about declaring its petrol station forecourts "profit-free zones" from today until further notice. This may have surprised members of the public ever alert to bargains on the high street but comes as no surprise to the City which has regarded the petrol business industry as a profit-free zone for some time.

Both Sainsbury and Shell expressed a lack of surprise, too. Shell ventured to suggest that "it is quite normal to be selling at cost price at the moment". According to Ennerfinance, the Paris-based oil consultant, UK petrol retail margins fell to 1.15 pence per litre last month, by far the lowest in Europe. The good news for consumers and the bad news for the oil giants is that May is likely to have seen what are politely referred to as "negative margins".

Negative margins have appeared likely

ever since January when Esso, the UK arm of the American Exxon group, scrapped its token giveaways and launched a price watch campaign to match any supermarket discount prices. Attempts by supermarkets over the Easter weekend to break this hold soon fizzled out.

A parliamentary select committee will sit on June 28 to hear evidence from leading oil companies and the Office of Fair Trading. But it is difficult to see what, apart from intervention, would halt the price war.

The oil majors have hit on a little luck. However, the price of the crude oil from which petrol is distilled has looked weak since the start of the week when Iraq oil was allowed back on to international markets in a deal brokered by the United Nations to allow Iraq to pay for food.

Wolverhampton and Dudley

WOLVERHAMPTON and Dudley is that increasingly rare species — a regional brewer. It has been under threat ever since government reforms and the general decline in sales prompted the big players to consolidate.

But Wolves can still put up a strong defence for remaining independent. It retains its market leadership in its Midlands base with Banks beer commanding about 16 per cent of the market. The company has an understanding of the locality that the nationals lack.

The company is also proud of its ability to control costs and says there is room for more savings. Wolves holds only about 3 per cent of the national beer market but it does not require huge

Man Utd

MANCHESTER United fans who are also shareholders in the quoted football club can look forward to reaping financial rewards after the recent success of winning the Premier League and FA Cup double.

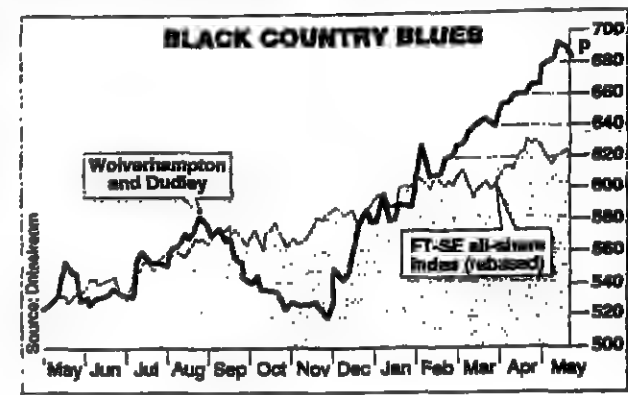
The club's fear in becoming the first to do the double twice will help keep the money rolling in. Manchester officials are looking forward to an increase in season ticket sales based not only on fresh success but also on a rise in capacity at the Old Trafford stadium to 55,000 from 44,000 thanks to completion of the new North Stand which also brings in an extra 30,000 sq feet of executive space.

Season ticket sales stood at 30,000 in the season just ended and the target for the new season is understood to be around 40,000. The new six-year deal with Umbro, the sports goods group, to supply kit will also bring in

BLACK COUNTRY BLUES

increase on a pint of beer in its pubs and is aiming to force through increases on its on-trade and wholesale trade in the next few weeks.

Unless Wolves can guarantee that the increases will stick this time, the company, which is sitting on a forward price earnings rating of almost 16 times, can be regarded as no more than a hold.



extra money. Fans will be able to see the team in the European Champions League which netted £3.5 million two seasons ago for Manchester despite being eliminated at an early stage of the competition.

A decent run in the competition could bring in an extra £10 million-£15 million. Manchester United is, however, guaranteed revenue from three home games, prize money from UEFA for gaining entry to the competition, as well as extra television and sponsorship income.

But in the past year, gate revenues were outstripped by sales of merchandise bearing the value-enhancing Manchester United name. In the past full year, merchandising brought in £23 million. Increased popularity of the club by winning the FA Cup Premier League double can only increase this figure.

The bad news for shareholders is that the stockmarket has already seen the success coming. At 333p the shares yield a measly 1.69 per cent and stand on a price earnings multiple of 14.2. This season's success and next season's potential would appear to be already in the price.

Brokers to Manchester United, however, have raised their forecasts for profits to the end of July 1997 from £16 million to £19.2 million before tax putting earnings up from 19.2p a share to 23.0p. Forecasts for the year just coming to an end remain unchanged, however, at around £12 million. This divides down into earnings per share of 14.4p.

Intriguingly, analysts at Merrill Lynch, who are corporate brokers to Manchester United, have produced a valuation for the club of 431p a share or £262 million using earnings multiples more commonly associated with media stocks and retailers rather than leisure stocks. What a big business football is becoming.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current price	Week's change	Notes
Reftrack	+210p	...Solid demand on public debut
APV	+84p	...Profits warning
British Biotech	+227p	...Profit taking after touching 538p
Park Food Group	+103p	...Bid approach
FT Group	+273p	...Profit warning
Kingfisher	+81p	...Trading update
Jersey	+30p	...Share repurchase after acquisition
Crabtree Group	+252p	...Profit warning
BAT Industries	+521p	...US court rejects tobacco action

COMMODITIES

ICE-LOIR (London & Harped)			
CRUDE OILS (c/barron)			
Brut Physical	10.75	+0.15	
Brut 5 Day (Aug)	10.90	+0.10	
Brut 5 Day (Aug)	18.40	+0.05	
WTes Intermed (Jun)	31.30	+0.05	
WTes Intermed (Aug)	30.30	+0.05	
PRODUCTS (c/MT)			
Spot CIF/NW Europe (average delivery)			
	Bld	Offr	
Premium Unid	210 (+4)	312 (+4)	
Cargol ESC	177 (-1)	181 (-1)	
3.5% Fuel Oil	195 (+1)	199 (+1)	
Aluminum	195 (+3)	199 (+3)	
LPG FUTURES (GNI Ltd)			
GAS OIL			
Jun	161.75-64.00	Spot	163.75-64.00
Aug	164.75-65.00	Oct	165.75-66.00
Aug	165.75-67.75	Vol:	4809
BRENT (\$/bblm)			
Jul	19.09-14.10	Oct	17.62 BID
Aug	18.39-14.10	Nov	17.62/17.42
Aug	17.75-19.70	Nov	17.52
(Official) (Volume prev day)			
Copper Cde A (barron)			173700
3.5% Fuel Oil (barron)			151000
3.5% Zinc Hcl Cde (barron)			19000
Tin (barron)			4900
Aluminum Hcl Cde (barron)			160200
Methyl H (barron)			1970

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
WHEAT			
Jun	30.40	Sep	28.50
Jul	31.10	Oct	28.50
Aug	31.30	Nov	108.40
Sep	31.10	Dec	108.40
Oct	31.10	Jan	110.40
Nov	31.10	Mar	114.00
Dec	31.10	Vol:	11.23
Volume 411			
Barley			
Jun	11.25	Sep	11.25
Jul	11.25	Oct	11.25
Aug	11.25	Nov	11.25
Sep	11.25	Dec	11.25
Oct	11.25	Jan	11.25
Nov	11.25	Mar	11.25
Dec	11.25	Vol:	21
Volume 21			
POTATO (c/lb)			
Jun	Open	Close	
Jul	25.00	25.00	
Aug	25.00	25.00	
Nov	25.00	25.00	
Dec	25.00	25.00	
Jan	25.00	25.00	
Feb	25.00	25.00	
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Aug	25.00	25.00	
Sep	25.00	25.00	
Oct	25.00	25.00	
Nov	25.00	25.00	
Dec	25.00	25.00	</

Karen Zagor looks at the increasing demands on homeowners

Caught in the grip of tightening council tax

As taxpayers prepare to pay the third instalment of council tax for the current year, it is hardly surprising that many feel that they are being squeezed dry.

This year, we are forking out an extra £25 billion in council tax, representing an average increase of 6.2 per cent over 1995's payments.

The increases vary wildly from authority to authority. In Islington, for example, comparatively high rates jumped another 14.5 per cent for a band D home. Yet inflation is running at only 2.9 per cent. This is not the first time that council tax increases have outpaced inflation. Last year, council taxes rose an average of 5.4 per cent, whereas inflation was up a more modest 3.4 per cent.

To make matters worse, those who have had their payments subsidised by transitional relief, which was intended to ease the pain of the shift from poll tax to council tax, will no longer receive this help. Transitional relief has now been eliminated.

The Times has discovered that if a council makes a mistake and charges a resident the wrong amount of tax, the authority can demand payment for the difference at any time in the six years after the mistake was made.

For a resident who has diligently paid every bill on time, this can result in an unexpected bill of thousands of pounds if the council's errors stretch over several years. As with most council tax bills, these come with a demand that payment be made within 14 days.

Part of the problem is that, unlike income tax, it is almost impossible for an ordinary person to calculate how much council tax is due. All you can do is check that you are paying the correct level for the band in which the property falls. If you are currently not being billed at all, the chances are that the council has made a mistake.

Consumers have very little redress when it comes to rectifying an authority's errors because councils have a legal right to demand moneys owed. But if the demand seems unreasonable, there should be room to negotiate.

Rob Rundle, spokesman for the local government ombudsman in London said: "Yes, we have had complaints about this, but they haven't led to reports. When someone

complaints, the ombudsman will look at reasonableness. If a council said to someone 'we've undercharged you and this is what you should have paid us', and if the request was lawful, the ombudsman would expect the council to give this person a reasonable time to pay."

Any unusual demand from a council should be investigated. It is not unknown for councils to make outrageous blunders. The Sun recently reported a case in which Borders Council sent a tax demand addressed to "William McCafferty, deceased", five months after he had died from cancer.

UNDERPAYING

If a council finds that it has made a mistake, it is required to rebill you. If, however, you think this is because of maladministration or incompetence on the part of the authority, you can complain to the local government ombudsman. The ombudsman cannot reimburse you, but he can issue a report and make a recommendation for remedy. He can also put pressure on the council if it decides not to follow his recommendation.

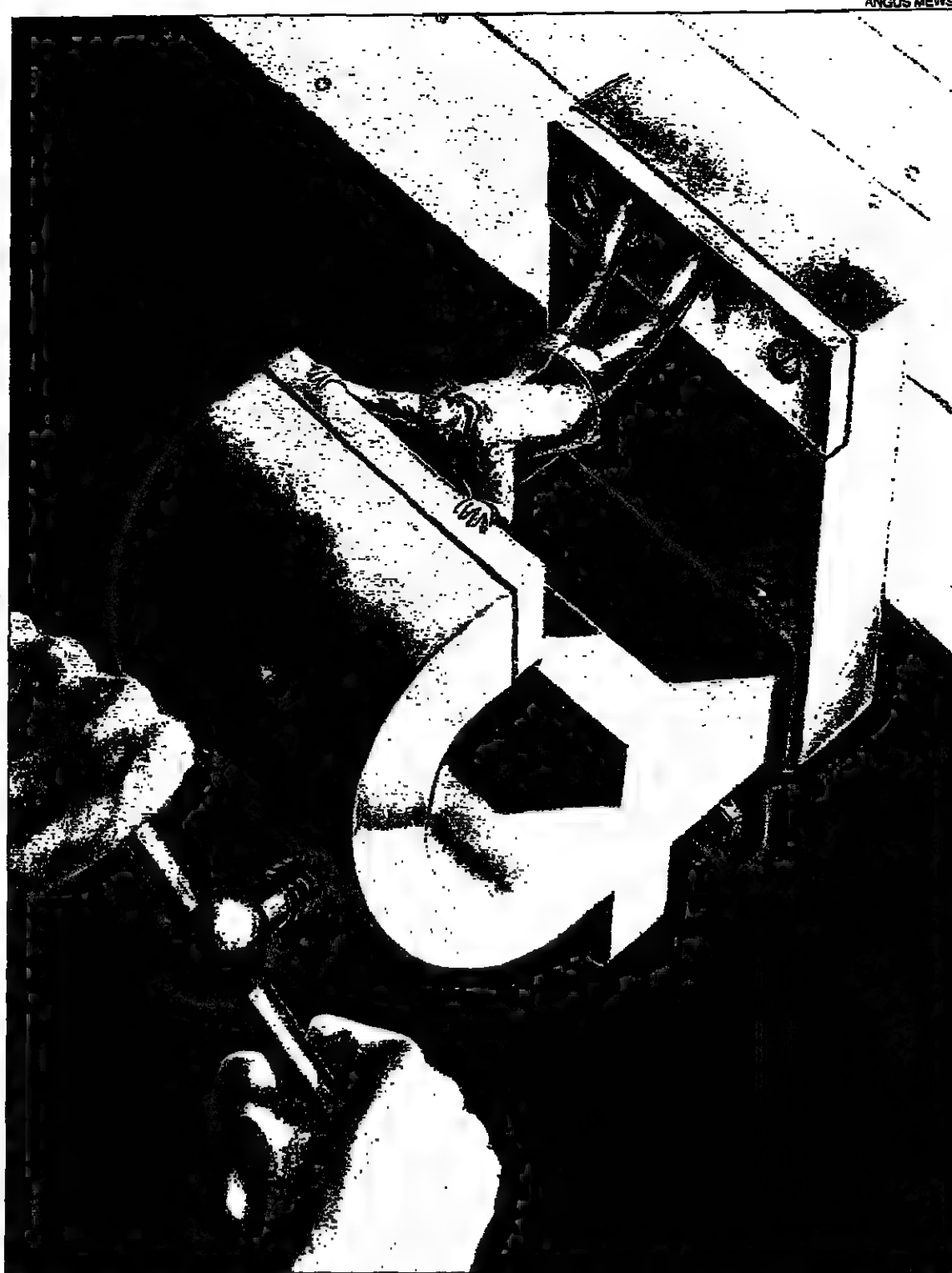
The ombudsman's office says that all disputes should first be taken directly to the council. If that fails, you should make a formal complaint to a senior person at the council. If you are still dissatisfied, then you should contact your nearest local government ombudsman. There are three offices in England - in York, Coventry and London - one in Wales, and one in Scotland. Ask your council, library or Citizens Advice Bureau for details.

BANDING

Council tax is based on property values in 1991, when the property market was much stronger than it is today. As a result, if your property was worth £95,000 in 1991, it would fall into band D, even if it is now worth only £85,000.

The substantial drop in house prices since 1991 has led to calls for a government review of the bands.

The Department of Environment argues that if your property has fallen in value because of the weak market, then every other similar property in your neighbourhood will



also be worth less, and that the relationship between different properties will not have changed. It is estimated that two million properties were placed in the wrong bands in 1991, and about one million properties are still believed to be in the wrong bracket. While it is too late to appeal against the 1991 valuations for an existing home, you are allowed to appeal if you have moved in the past six months and believe that a mistake was made in 1991. You can also appeal to have the banding changed if there have been substantial physical changes to the property in recent years. If a motorway now runs through your garden, you may be due for a rates reduction. But if you have substantially raised your home's value, you may be rebanded.

DROP IN INCOME

If you cannot afford the council tax on your property, expect little mercy from the authority unless your circumstances have changed dramatically. Council tax benefit, from the Department of Social Services, can be a real help. The benefit is based on the amount of council tax you pay, your level of income and sundry circumstances. A spokeswoman for Camden Council said: "Individuals are obliged to tell us if their circumstances change. If your level of income drops, or your partner dies, let us know. After everything is assessed you may well qualify for a reduced rate because of a change in family circumstance."

GRANNY FLATS

If you have set up a self-contained flat for an ageing parent, it will almost certainly incur council tax while it is inhabited, because it qualifies as a dwelling in its own right.

Once the flat is vacated, it may become immune from council tax, depending on the actual space. An annex that cannot be let separately from the main dwelling without breaching planning permits, for example, would be exempt while unoccupied.

An updated Council Tax Handbook is due later this year from CPAG LTD, 1-5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9PY. Price, £9.95.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Unit trusts facing an open end

The financial services world, riddled as it is with confusing jargon, is about to gain another acronym. The imaginatively entitled Open Ended Investment Companies (Oeics) are poised to join the already bewildering world of collective investments, currently occupied by unit trusts and investment trusts.

Over the next few years, Oeics are likely to replace unit trusts in the collective investment stable. Many fund managers are also considering whether they can convert their existing funds into Oeics.

Much will depend on the final outline of the rules, which will be formed out of legislation which has yet to go through Parliament.

Even though Oeics are unlikely to make an appearance before the end of the year, forewarned is forearmed. Here *The Times* answers some basic questions about this new product.

Q Just what exactly are Oeics?

A They are structured as single companies which trade in shares of different companies, like an investment trust. However, unlike an investment trust which is "closed ended", having a fixed number of shares in issue, Oeics are "open-ended" which means that new shares can be created. Their open-ended structure makes them much more like unit trusts. But unlike unit trusts, which are governed by trust law, Oeics will come under company law.

Q Why are Oeics being introduced?

A It was thought necessary to introduce these funds because unit trusts are a difficult concept to explain to investors in other countries where trust law is not a known quantity. Many fund managers have had to run two fund ranges, one from the UK and one from abroad, to satisfy both markets.

Q Will they have any significant advantages over unit trusts?

A The biggest advantage of Oeics over unit trusts is that they will operate on a single price - investors will be able to buy and sell shares at one quoted price. This is in contrast to the current, somewhat obscure, bid-offer pricing structure of unit trusts, where units are bought and sold at different prices. A bid-offer spread means that if you buy units and then immediately sell them - there will usually be a price difference of about 6 per cent.

Q Are there any other advantages?

A Oeics will be able to offer a variety of different types of shares to meet the requirements of different types of investors. For instance, it will be possible to have shares quoted in different currencies for investors abroad. Fund managers are also hoping the new structure will allow them to offer funds that pay out a guaranteed amount over a fixed term.

Q Will investors in Oeics get the same protection as those who hold their investments in unit trusts?

A The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds believes that the investor protection regimes governing both types of investment will be equivalent. Shareholders in Oeics will be able to vote on the issues governing their funds in the same way as unitholders do now. Oeics will hold annual meetings for shareholders as investment trusts do now.

Q Will existing unit trusts convert to Oeics?

A Many of the fund management groups are pondering whether to change their existing funds when the legislation comes in. They believe Oeics will pave the way for greater clarity, more flexibility and more active shareholder involvement in the way the fund is managed.

Q Will there be any costs to the fund of converting?

A The Treasury has just announced that it intends to waive the 0.5 per cent stamp duty on conversion costs, which will encourage more trusts to change their structure.

Q Will the unit trust industry eventually disappear?

A The fund management groups anticipate that Oeics will eventually completely replace unit trusts. This may take a few years. In the meantime it is likely investment managers will offer two ranges of funds.

Q Is there going to be any more general rationalisation in the unit trust industry?

A The Treasury's decision to waive stamp duty applies to unit trust mergers in general. Over the next few months there is likely to be a spate of mergers between funds.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Mortgages that have become millstones



Norman: advertised TMC

Tens of thousands of borrowers are still paying for the excesses of the 1980s housing boom, when they became trapped by negative equity and mortgage rates well above the current standard variable rate of 7.25 per cent.

In some cases they are paying a full 3 percentage points above average rates, which would add an extra £100 every month to a £60,000 repayment mortgage. Yet current standard variable rates are among the lowest in 30 years. Borrowers with Nat-

ional Home Loans Corporation are some of the hardest hit, paying a standard variable rate of 10.65 per cent.

NHL this week announced a rise of about 33 per cent in half-year profits and raised its dividend. Yet it still refuses to relent on its high interest rate strategy.

Its hard-pressed existing customers will be interested to learn that NHL is now lending again through a new company, Homeloans Direct, where the variable rate is 7.2 per cent.

Borrowers with the West-

ern Trust Bank, whose mortgage book was bought last year by the Birmingham Midshires Building Society, are paying up to 9.75 per cent.

The Mortgage Corporation, owned by Salomon Brothers, the international investment bank, is no longer actively seeking new business. In the mid-1980s, its wares were advertised by Barry Norman, the TV presenter. Most of its borrowers are paying 7.99 per cent, some even higher rates.

Many hapless borrowers are customers of centralised lenders, without high street

branches, who entered the mortgage market during the boom.

Some specialised in self-certification loans, where borrowers vouched for their own income, or roll-up loans, where interest was deferred in the early years of the loan but rolled up and added to the outstanding debt. When interest rates rose and house prices fell, borrowers fell into arrears or were repossessed.

Some borrowers are benefiting from a change in mortgage ownership. When UCB Home Loans sold its £4

billion mortgage book to the Nationwide Building Society last June, UCB borrowers were paying three-quarters of a per cent more than Nationwide borrowers. Almost immediately the rate fell. About half the UCB customers are now paying 7.24 per cent, an improvement but still higher than Nationwide customers, who are paying 6.74 per cent under the society's mutuality package. Self-employed UCB borrowers are paying 8.24 per cent.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

UNIQUE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM HM TREASURY

Big names shy from glasnost

Glasnost was unpopular among those Soviet citizens with something to hide. Similarly, the disclosure regime, intended to bring a new spirit of openness to the selling of endowments and pensions, makes some life insurance companies uneasy. So uncomfortable, in fact, that more than a dozen would not submit full details of their performance and the charges they deduct from your premiums to a with-profits survey by *Money Marketing* (see page 30).

These refusals are not obscure businesses. Some are household names, usually eager to promote their wares. The list of names includes: Cornhill, Irish Life, Pearl, Refuge, Scottish Equitable, and NPI, whose squirrel and acorn ads regularly adorn our TV screens.

Some used as the excuse that they were no longer



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

selling with-profit endowments. This puny protest raises the obvious suspicion that their results were so poor they could not bear comparison with the survey's leaders. Top of this list are: Commercial Union, Equitable Life, General Accident and Standard Life.

It also suggests a disdain for existing customers who should, without delay, write to these companies, asking for performance data for their policies, prepared on the *Money Marketing* basis. Customers preparing to buy

pensions and other investments from these reticent groups should note how they treat their policyholders and reconsider their decision.

The advice to think again also applies to those about to invest with some of the companies that did come clean and may now be regretting the move.

Pause, for example, if you are tempted to open a Prudential executive personal pension plan to look at figures guaranteed to make you gasp and stretch

your eyes. The company anticipates that if you pay a £25,000 single premium into one of these pensions today its commissions and other expenses will amount to £228,000 over a 35-year period. Elsewhere, the charges may be as low as £13,000 which means a difference of £215,000 in the final size of the fund.

On page 32, we report that Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, is basing all its forecasts on the presumption that Tony Blair will be the next Prime Minister. Some life companies are obviously not making any plans for a possible change in government, or they would already be prepared to fall in line with Labour pensions policy. This will require companies to give clear and regular information to policyholders, surely the most reasonable of demands, whoever is in power.

Power to the people

Caroline Merrell
offers guidance to investors on the upcoming sell-off of British Energy

The marketing campaign for the sell-off of British Energy, the final company in the Government's ten-year-long privatisation programme begins in earnest this week.

The campaign will kick off with an announcement on Tuesday of the list of registered share shops. A prospectus of the company will follow in a few weeks' time.

The Government is expected to allocate at least 30 per cent of the shares to small shareholders, although this could be higher, as in the case of Railtrack where the final public allocation hit 58.5 per cent.

British Energy comprises eight nuclear power stations in Scotland and England. Together, the stations are responsible for generating about 18 per cent of the UK's electricity. The other generators, National Power and PowerGen, have been sold already.

The sell-off of British Energy has been dogged by controversy, mainly because of public concern about the safety of nuclear reactors and their



Will British Energy draw the crowds like Lightning?

impact on the environment. The marketing campaign is expected to try to address those concerns.

The prospects for those interested in investing in British Energy depend on the amount of debt with which it is saddled, the price of wholesale electricity and, of course, the price tag the Government puts

on the company. It is hoping to raise between £2.4 billion and £2.6 billion from the sale, but bearing in mind that this is the last privatisation before the general election, most analysts believe it will be "priced to go".

Dealings in Railtrack shares began on Monday, with private investors seeing an instant profit of about 14

per cent on their shares in just one week. Not all those who applied for Railtrack shares will get their full allocation, as the offer was nearly twice oversubscribed.

About 44 per cent of those who applied through the UK public offer will get their full allocation and 97 per cent will get all or some of the shares. However, those who applied for more than 300 shares will get fewer than they sought. Those who applied for 400 receive 315, 500 get 330, 600 get 360, 700 get 390, 800 get 420, 900 get 450, 1,000 get 480, 1,500 get 495, 2,000 get 510.

All pep applicants in the UK retail tender will get the shares for which they applied. All other applicants in this tender, which had a minimum investment of £3,000, will be allocated 1,000 shares.

Many small shareholders sold their shares immediately, before they received notice of their allocation. This was risky, although your share shop should be able to give you details your exact allocation. Refunds for those who applied for shares but did not get their full allocation will be dealt with by the share shops.

Railtrack shareholders have 42 days to put their shares into a pep. They do not have to sell the shares and buy them back to do this. Stockbrokers say that investors should shop around to find the cheapest and most flexible pep providers.



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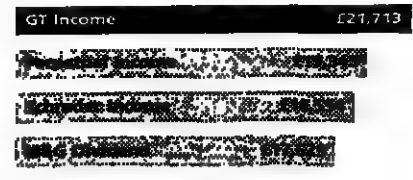
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Caroline Merrell on the industry's lack of openness



Disclosure was a hit for Demi Moore, but Britain's leading insurance companies are not too keen on the concept

Insurers that fear to reveal charges

Amid much self-congratulation, 18 months ago the life insurance industry declared to the world that, at last, it was coming clean about its charges. Under the new disclosure regime, they would reveal the considerable sums they deduct from premiums to pay administrative expenses and commission to intermediaries, deductions that have an impact on the return from an investment. In spite of these assurances, however, the spirit of openness has yet to permeate the industry.

As this week's *Money Marketing* survey reveals. The survey, the first major analysis of the charges and performance of with-profits endowment and pensions policies since the introduction of the new disclosure rules, asked the 54 companies that run with-profits funds for details. Of the 54 only 37 opted to give a full set of figures. Many of the household names that refused to give figures said they no longer offered with-profits policies. Unfortunately, this is of little comfort to the millions of policyholders insured by these companies.

Moreover, the survey, which covers endowment policies and pension plans, also found that charges are rising and not falling, as was hoped. The life insurers that refused to give details included Scottish Equitable and NPI. John Jenkins, an actuary with

KPMG, the actuaries firm that helped to compile the survey, called for a statutory requirement on all companies to disclose figures.

One of the biggest surprises was that Prudential, the UK's biggest pension office, showed the poorest projected performance on its personal pension. This can be attributed to its high charges, which will cut the annual returns on its policy by 2.5 per cent. The projected return on a Pru pension taken out by a 29-year-old paying £100 a month would be £183,502 — £63,498 less than the best projection.

Robert Higginbottom, head of savings and investment, said: "Our costs are being brought down gradually. Our past investment performance is good." Copies of the survey, price £3.75, may be obtained by calling 0171-292 3707.

HOW RISING COSTS HIT HOME

ONE of the main aims of the new disclosure regime was to try to force companies to cut costs. In reality, the reverse is true. The survey found that the average expenses on both life and pension policies were rising. For instance, the costs on a 25-year personal pension five years ago would cut the annual returns by 1.5 per cent. This means that if the fund grew by 9 per cent a year, charges would reduce this to 7.5 per cent. The survey found that this 1.5 per cent figure has grown to 1.8 per cent this year. On endowments this figure has grown from 1.1 to 1.4 per cent.

THE BEST projected pension performers included Medical Sickness with a projected payout of £247,000 on a £100 month policy taken out by a 29-year-old. Other good performers included Equitable Life with a sum of £241,076, Scottish Equitable with £236,100, RNPPN with £235,435, and Clerical Medical with £235,363. Poorest performers were the Prudential with £183,502, Axa Equity & Law with £186,000, Royal London with £193,333 and Guardian Financial with £196,279.

THE BEST

THE best performance on a 25-year £20 per month endowment policy, taken out by a 29-year old non-smoking male, was shown by the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses. Total payout on this policy reached £45,789. Second place was taken by Royal Insurance, which paid out £45,313, third in performance terms was Wesleyan Assurance with a payout of £44,693. Other top performers included General Accident with £44,243, Commercial Union with £43,709, Tinsbridge Wells with £43,269, Royal London with £41,662, Clerical Medical with £41,643, AXA Equity & Law with £41,410 and Legal & General with £41,100.

These figures compared with an average payout of £38,882 and a lowest payout of £30,260, making the difference between the top performing fund and bottom performing fund £14,578. The poorest performers included Colonial with £30,260, Sun Life with £31,981, and Britannia Life with £33,887. Scottish Amicable and Norwich Union, two household names, also came close to the bottom with payouts of £36,738 and £36,791 respectively.

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Sara McConnell on the pension plight of non-working women

The family ties that bind

ROLAND LEON/NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL



PENSIONS GUIDE

Working women may find it difficult to build up a decent pension because of career breaks or part-time jobs with no pension. But married women who have devoted their lives to their families can find themselves just as badly off, with little control over their retirement finances.

Earlier this month Weekend Money ran a series of articles on working women and their pensions, pinpointing the serious danger that a vast number of women will spend their retirement in poverty if they rely on their own resources and delay starting to save.

Q Mrs Jessie Yapp of Church Stretton, Shropshire, says:

"I was disappointed that you concentrated only on working women. I and many of my friends and acquaintances gave up work, as was the custom then, to raise our families. Some of us went back to work, often part-time, often in jobs which carried no pensions. I gave up teaching after four years but took a lump sum instead of a pension. I had four children, a husband and a large house to look after. I worked for ICI for two years which carried a pension of £430 a year. My subsequent jobs were part-time and had no pension."

"My husband retired from university teaching with a pension of half his salary. I am 63 next month. If he dies before me, I will get half of that, or 25 per cent of his former income."

"If I die first, his pension continues as before. If I survive him, according to your figures and my own calculations, I will end my life hard up."

"I did what my generation of women did, sacrificed a career to raise a family and look after my husband. By the time life had become easier it was too late to have a career."

A One of the difficulties for non-working women is that only those who are earning can contribute to a pension. This is one of the reasons why we have focused on working women. Earlier this month, the Government raised the possibility of changing pension rules to allow non-working wives to contribute to their pensions from unearned income, like savings. This would allow them to build up a pension while bringing up a family. Husbands may also be able to contribute on their behalf.

But any move in this direction is certain to take several years. In the meantime, pension advisers agree that people like you are in a difficult position. You will have a small state pension, to which you have contributed an extra sum, to bring your pension in your own right up to £15 a week. You and your husband will also get the couples' basic state pension of up to £97.75 a week.

John Horton of Chamberlain de Broe, an independent financial adviser, says: "Your husband's pension will almost certainly have a guarantee that if he dies within five years of retirement you would get a lump sum. If he dies after this but before you, as you say you will get half his pension. University pensions are indexed. Women with no independent pension provision and who do not feel their husband's provision would be adequate should think about generating income in other ways, says Mr Horton."

One possibility is to invest the tax-free lump sum, which is paid as part of the pension. Most occupational pension plans will pay a lump sum of around one and a half times salary. Investing this in a range of savings accounts, like National Savings and personal equity plans, would generate tax-free income and keep investments liquid, so that you could get the capital back if necessary. Annuities, which also pay income, are a possibility, especially for those who wait until they are older because they get a better rate. But once capital is used to buy an annuity, it is spent, even if you die the next day.

"Other options, like buying life assurance, are almost certainly out, because of the expense," says Mr Horton. "Most insurers will not take on those over 70 at all and charge large premiums to over-60s."



Mrs Jessie Yapp gave up her job to raise a family and feels she is now being penalised

By the time life was easier it was too late for a career

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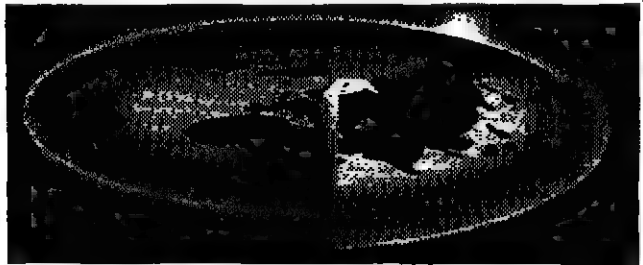
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An overweight position in the trust sector is being urged, Robert Miller says

Investment team sees Blair forming next government

In City circles Tony Blair's new Labour needs investment credibility more than votes. And yesterday he received, if not a ringing endorsement, then at least an acknowledgement that he will form the next government.

The decision by Credit Lyonnais Laing (CLL) to feature Mr Blair and his Shadow Cabinet at an airport arrival gateway — John Major, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are making for the departure gate — on the cover of their 1996 Investment Trust Year Book was not taken lightly.

In their annual preview — Don't Panic — the CLL investment trust team say: "We are as certain as we can be that the Labour Party will form the next UK government. In consequence, we believe that investors should now be concentrating on political certainty rather than political uncertainty and positioning their portfolios accordingly."

The authors admit that their decision to go out on a limb and risk wrongfooting investment trust investors is a risky one. They say: "The decision to pin our colours to the mast in such a high-profile fashion has not been taken lightly. Whilst we have the utmost confidence in our stance, we still run the risk of incurring widespread ridicule if we are wrong."

In looking at the implications of its views for private investors, CLL says: "Our medium-term strategy for investment trusts is formulated on the political certainty of a Labour government. Based on this assumption we recommend that investors move to an overweight position in the investment trust sector in the expectation of significant outperformance relative to the FT-SE all-share index."

The CLL team says that in the first place realigning portfolio weights is a hedge against political risk because "although we have already disregarded political uncertainty as a factor this does not mean that the UK financial markets have fully discounted a change of government". CLL argues that while the UK



Tony Blair figures on the cover of Credit Lyonnais Laing's Investment Trust Year Book

economic environment remains favourable and there may still be scope for an interest rate cut (note the use of the singular), the markets will have to contend with the impact of change. "Rightly or wrongly," says CLL, "the performance of the domestic

markets will be constrained. In consequence, our UK equity strategists expect the UK market to rise only very modestly in 1996 and the Footsie to end the year at around 3,750. We do not believe that this target, which is around the current level of the market, will be

reached in an orderly manner." In the short term, CLL says the index "is vulnerable to a correction of between 150 and 250 points in the short term".

CLL argues that in the eyes of international investors the nearer the British general

election approaches, the greater the pressure on sterling. In this scenario, the authors believe that investment trusts should be a natural hedge because more than 50 per cent of their exposure is to assets that are denominated in overseas currencies.

Taking the CLL argument further, investment trusts have a near 40 per cent exposure to overseas stock markets, which are most likely to be boosted by international capital flows seeking higher returns than those expected in the US and the UK. The "buy" list features the emerging markets of Latin America and the Far East together with Japan and continental Europe. CLL says: "Each of these areas are well represented in the investment trust sector through specialist trusts and increasingly within the portfolios of the internationally diversified trusts."

If you do consider a realignment of your portfolio broadly along the lines suggested by CLL you will need to gauge the relative performance of the trusts on your shortlist. The generally accepted yardsticks that may help to whittle down the choice is how the chosen trusts have performed against other similar trusts. An acceptable performance level is to at least match the average of like-minded investment trusts and preferably to do slightly better over consistent time periods of, say, one, three and five years.

On performance, CLL believes there are additional profits to be had from corporate activity in the investment trust sector. They say: "Activity will continue to feature the strong preying on the weak and investors should welcome the acquisition of poorly managed trusts, provided a cash alternative is made available."

It would be fair to say, however, that the investment and market fundamentals of selecting a suitable trust with a medium to long-term view, or a specific aim in mind such as school or university fees, should not be confused with the potential profits to be had from takeover activity.

Last post for Hinckley High Rise accounts

Another building society has moved to close accounts summarily and return cash to investors, following the example of National Counties. As we reported earlier this month, National Counties is turning away those who have opened accounts with small amounts since the start of the year.

Now Hinckley & Rugby has written to savers in its High Rise Share account, informing them that these accounts can no longer be operated by post. If they do not wish to transfer their money into one of the society's Post Haste accounts, their High Rise

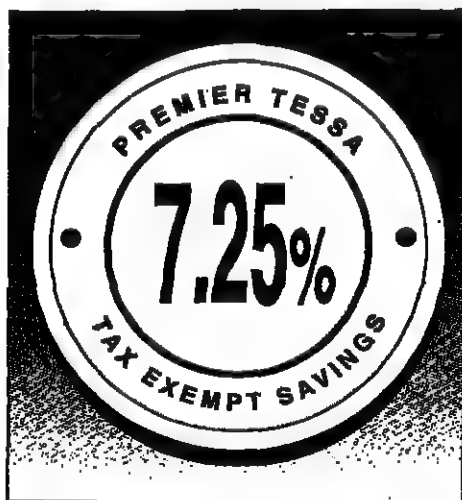
accounts will be closed on May 31. The reason for the society's action is not entirely clear. It does not seem to be linked with any wish to deter speculators, the motive for the National Counties' decision to close accounts. Hinckley & Rugby denied that it was the society's wish to turn away savers who lived outside its Midlands branch area, although the letter sent to

investors mentions that they "do not live within easy reach of one of the society's branches". The notice of closure prompted several Hinckley & Rugby savers to contact *The Times*. Some pointed out that they did not have a spare £1,000, the amount required to open a Post Haste account. At its annual meeting this week, the

that it would be floating on the stock market next summer, following a February vote on its conversion move. Some of the assembled members had complained that they were being made to wait too long for their free shares. Those who object to the £1.3 billion Abbey National's takeover of the National & Provincial will have their last opportunity on June 3 when the deal goes for final approval by the Building Societies Commission, the industry watchdog. The hearing is likely, however, to be a mere formality.

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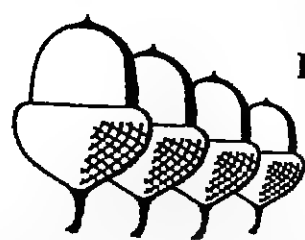
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Miller says
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As temptations go, high yields can flatter to deceive

Helen Pridham offers a concise guide to selecting an appropriate income trust



A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT & UNIT TRUSTS

PART 2

Savers leaving building societies in search of better returns are increasingly looking to income trusts. This week, we explain how to choose from the huge choice available.

The most common mistake made by building society investors considering income funds is to use the yield as their main yardstick for choice. Peter Edwards of Premier Unit Trust Brokers in Bristol, says: "So if they see a fund advertising an 8 per cent yield, they tend to feel they are getting a better deal than one yielding 4 per cent. A high yielding trust may be appropriate for some investors but they need to know exactly what they are doing."

The main types are:

Unit Trusts

Equity Income Funds: These invest in high-yielding UK shares. At present, they are typically quoting gross yields of between 4 and 5.5 per cent. They pay out an income twice or four times a year. Their aim is to provide a rising income and historically they have also generated capital growth, so the total return growth is much higher than the yield.

Over the past year, for example, total returns on equity income funds have averaged over 11 per cent; over three years they were 38 per cent. These funds are suitable for investors who have a long-term need for income, such as those in their sixties (see "White List" below for the best).

Corporate Bond Funds: The income from these trusts, which invest in bonds issued by companies, is significantly higher than that available on equity income funds. They are currently offering yields of 7 to 8 per cent, but the scope for capital growth is limited. Average total returns over the past three years have been

15.5 per cent. They are most attractive to people who have a real need for high immediate income. When choosing a corporate bond fund, the charges are the key. Jason Holland of financial advisers, BEST Investment, says: "The difference in performance between the best and worst bond funds is small, so differences in charges are highly significant." BEST Investment recommends the Guinness Flight Value Bond fund and Virgin's Income fund.

Investment Trusts

Conventional trusts: Many investors overlook established investment trusts as a source of income. Yet the income growth trusts (the equivalent of the equity income unit trusts) have a good record for providing year-on-year increases in dividends and capital growth. They are attractive for longer-term income investors and are currently yielding about 4.5 per cent.

Two trusts that Graham Hooper, of financial advisers Chase de Vere, feels are interesting are Dundedin Income Growth, which has recently been trading at a 9.2 per cent discount and M & G Income units, which has been on an 11 per cent discount.

Split capital trusts: Some

investment trusts have special split capital structures which include very high yielding income shares. These shares have running yields of up to about 12 per cent. But investors need to look particularly carefully at what happens to the value of their capital at the end of a trust's life.

The entitlement to income and capital growth from a trust's assets are split between income shareholders and holders of capital shares. Income shareholders get a fixed repayment, which is often less than they have paid for their shares. But these shares can be attractive if held within a PEP, especially for the elderly who do not mind some erosion of capital though advice is essential before investing: as with some income shares the capital loss is greater than with others.

Roger Adams of Warburg points out that income shares in Derby Trust, currently 142p, will be redeemed at only 25p in 2003. But with a running yield of 17 per cent, and a redemption yield of 10.7 per cent, he says they are good value.

□ The White List of best buys from Premier Unit Trust Brokers includes: Jupiter Income, Morgan Grenfell UK Equity Income, Credit Suisse Income, Perpetual Income, Perpetual High Income and M&G Dividend funds.

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Rothschild the minimum investment is £5,000 for a managed income portfolio within a PEP. At Lazards, the minimum is £20,000.

■ For smaller investors, investment trust group Ivory & Sime offers an investment trust income portfolio service investing in both its own and other managers' trusts starting at just £3,000.



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Conal Gregory on the clarets exciting investors

A corking discovery

Last year's harvest from the Bordeaux vineyards of southwest France has sparked off more interest than any since 1990, with prices rising by as much as 49 per cent over their 1994 levels. Those moneyed investors who collect fine wine, partly with the intention of reselling it for a profit when it matures, need to make a speedy decision on whether to buy.

When I visited Bordeaux last month, many proprietors said they believed that the 1995 vintage had investment potential. Olivier Bernard of Domaine de Chevalier, a grand cru classé from the Pessac-Léognan area, compares the lannin of the 1995 vintage to that of 1986 and its roundness to 1985.

In the west bank of Bordeaux, there are five properties, known as first growths, which have been recognised as superior to the rest. The first-growth Graves, Chateau Haut Brion, is now being quoted at £695 per dozen bottles, up from £545 by one dealer, Cave Cru Classé, based in London. Majestic, the chain of wine merchants, offers two others, Chateau Latour at £560 and Mouton-Rothschild at £520, per dozen bottles. The merchant's fine wine buyer, Chris Hardy, calls the Mouton-Rothschild "stunning".

However, the owner of Chateau L'Angelus — a grand cru St Emilion — is one producer who has pre-empted the profit potential for investors by raising the price of his wine almost 50 per cent. A grand cru is the finest

category of wine at an estate which has made consistently superior wine.

After the stunning 1989 and 1990 vintages, Bordeaux has made only modest and even indifferent quality wines until the 1995 vintage. This means there is a demand both from investors and quality consumers for last year's stock. A growing number of French insurance and other large quoted groups such as Pinaut, the department store group, and Credit National, the financial services company, have purchased wine properties and will be looking for good returns.

If you are thinking of putting some money into wine, you should be aware of the following. Hardly anyone buys direct from the estate. You have to go through a merchant. They quote prices on two bases: either lying in Bordeaux, or under bond UK. The first includes shipping costs (about £8 per dozen bottles) and insurance. In case of damage in transit. Both prices exclude excise duty (currently £12.64 per dozen bottles), onward UK delivery (about £5) and VAT.

If you purchase your wine under bond, you can avoid excise duty and VAT. This makes the wine more attractive to overseas and diplomatic buyers when you sell it on. The wine is stored in bonded warehouses.

Buy larger size bottles, such as magnums and double-magnums. Although the initial price is higher, they gain a good premium at auction.

Is your bank robbing you?

Card	Annual Fee	APR (Purchases)	Cost of borrowing £1000 for a year
Flemings Save & Prosper	Nil	11.5%	£115.71
NatWest Visa	£12	22.9%	£226.12
Midland Visa	£12	22.3%	£220.40
First Direct Visa	£10	19.5%	£195.62
MBNA	Nil	18.9%	£188.75



It's criminal, really. Depending on which credit card you use, you could be paying twice as much as you need to for the privilege.

The Flemings Save & Prosper card offers you a low rate of interest and there is no annual fee. In fact, it offers the lowest interest rate of any card without a fee.

You also receive monthly statements, a

chequebook which you can use to pay off your other credit cards and storecards, and a choice of Visa and Mastercard.

Call our friendly staff between 8am and 9pm (seven days a week) on 0800 829 400 for a free information pack.

And don't let your bank get away with it any longer.

1755/002

CALL NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION 0800 829 400 8am to 9pm seven days a week

FLEMINGS
SAVE & PROSPER

Further information: APR = annual percentage rate of charge. The APR for cash advances is 14% which includes a flat charge of 1.5% of the amount withdrawn (minimum £2.00). The rates of interest as quoted above may be subject to variation. The cardholder is required to make monthly payments within 25 days of statement and not less than 5% of the total amount shown on the statement to be due or £5, whichever is the greater for the amount due if less than £5. The cardholder may use the card only within the credit limit set by Robert Fleming & Co Limited (registered office 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7DR) which issues cards as principal. Save & Prosper Group Limited acts as its agent and is a licensed credit broker under the Consumer Credit Act.

A helping hand for homebuyers

The Office of Fair Trading has produced three free booklets on mortgages, estate agents and debt. *Your Mortgage* is a guide to the different types of repayment methods available and explains the factors that should be considered in your choice of mortgage whether as a first-time buyer or as an existing borrower moving house. These include tax incentives, the charges and penalties within particular policies, and investment risk.

Using an Estate Agent explains the process of both buying and selling a property and advises on contracts, charges, selling rights, making an offer, repossessed properties, gazumping, deposits, valuations and legal matters. *Debt: What to do when the bills pile up* provides an action plan for overcoming debt. The guide offers advice on tackling harassment from creditors, extortionate credit and what to do if creditors want to take you to court.

For copies of the booklets, write to The Office of Fair Trading, PO Box 2, Central Way, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0TJ.

Age Concern has published an updated guide to state, occupational and personal pensions. *The Pensions Handbook 1996-97* - A mid-career guide to improving retirement income explains the changing legal framework and new rules affecting pensions. The guide is aimed at those in mid-

life who are keen to improve their pension arrangements. The specific issues addressed are pension issues for women, deferred withdrawal, pension safety, changing employment, mis-selling of personal pensions and the Pensions Act. Send a cheque/PO for £5.95 to Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

Allied Dunbar, the insurance and investment company, has published its *Tax Handbook for 1996-97*. It suggests how to minimise tax payments and maximise wealth and gives up-to-date information on the current tax laws. The handbook also provides extensive coverage of the implications of self-assessment, as well as VAT, corporation tax, capital gains tax, inheritance tax, income tax, stamp duty and National Insurance contributions. Copies are available from bookshops, priced £24.99.

BESTInvestment's May 1996 *Tax Shelter Bulletin*, which includes a 1995-96 tax-year end review is now available. The bulletin highlights the expansion of the market for tax-shelter investments last year, almost entirely due to the introduction of Venture Capital Trusts, which raised more than £150 million. For subscriptions, call BESTInvestment on 0171 321 0100.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	5.05
10,000	AIG Life	5.10
20,000	AIG Life	5.25
50,000	AIG Life	5.35
2 Years		
5,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.70
10,000	Financial Assur	5.80
20,000	Financial Assur	5.90
50,000	Financial Assur	5.90
3 Years		
5,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.10
10,000	AIG Life	6.48
20,000	AIG Life	6.48
50,000	AIG Life	6.48
4 Years		
5,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.40
10,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.75
20,000	Abbey Life	6.80
50,000	Abbey Life	7.00
5 Years		
5,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.40
10,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.75
20,000	Abbey Life	6.80
50,000	Abbey Life	7.00

Source: Chamberlain & Bost 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. After surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS				
Portman BS 01202 282444	Instant Acc	£100	4.80	Y/y
Alliance & Leicester 0845 645660	Instant Credit	£5,000	5.40	Y/y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	£10,000	6.75	Y/y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	GI Nth Postal	£25,000	6.50	A/y/y
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS				
Coventry BS 0845 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£2,000	5.45
First National BS 0800 558844	90 day Notice	90 day p	£10,000	6.20
Cheltenham BS 0800 132351	120 Account	120 day p	£25,000	6.50
Nottingham BS 0115 9584422	Fixed Rate Bond	1.69p	£1,000	7.25
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)				
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/y/y
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744605	5 year	£9,575	7.40	F/y/y
Birmingham Midshires 0845 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.25	F/y/y
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£500	7.00	Y/y

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Credit cards	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92%K	11.50%	NB
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Access/Visa	0.95%K	12.00%K	NB
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2498988	13.90%K	£112.86	£101.33
Yorkshire Bank 0345 181920	14.50%	£117.68	£102.09
Midland 0800 180180	14.80%	£118.82	£102.49

NB. A = All withdrawals subject to 30 day notice of interest. C = no interest free period. E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 25 years. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

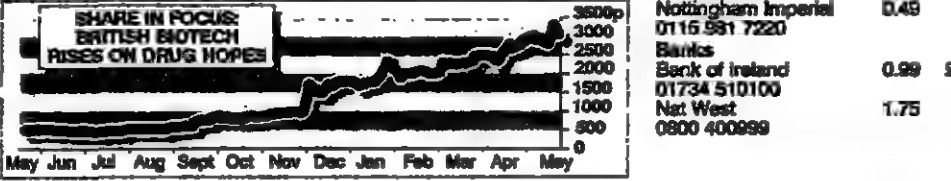
Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01852 500 577)

PIBS

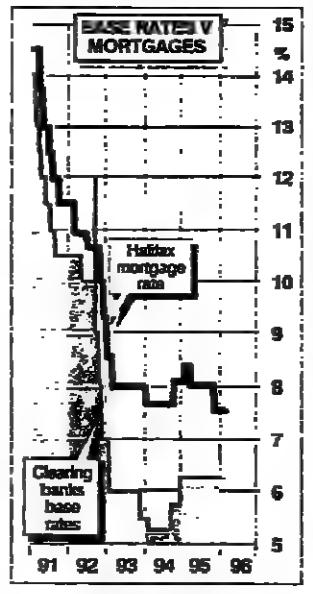
FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Minimum purchase
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	100.35	9.831	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.825%	119.39	9.728	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	133.87	9.711	100.20	10,000
Bradford & Bingley 13.875%	139.07	9.617	100.34	1,000
Briffanville 13.000%	133.97	9.704	100.42	1,000
Coventry 12.125%	125.46	9.640	100.75	1,000
First National 11.750%	117.50	9.575	100.10	1,000
Halifax 8.750%	92.61	9.448	100.02	50,000
Halifax 12.000%	124.48	9.441	100.28	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck 13.625%	142.70	9.548	100.00	50,000
Newcastle 13.375%	139.17	9.811	100.23	1,000
Newcastle 10.750%	107.50	9.588	100.32	1,000
Newcastle 12.625%	134.11	9.414	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock 12.625%	135.71	9.284	100.14	1,000
Skipdon 12.675%	134.18	9.595	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-21/03) 8.56750%	103.63	100.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat (20/03-20/09) 8.70825%	100.63	100.00	100.00	1,000

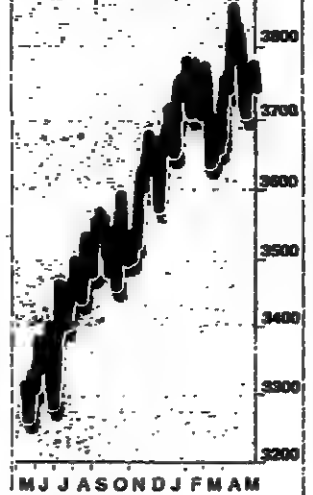
PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares. Source: ABI AMRO Home Govest - 0171 801 0101



SHARE IN FOCUS: BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO (BAT) ON DRUGS



FTSE 100 PRICE INDEX



Clearing bank rates

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West	0.70	£15k+	95	Fixed to 30.4.97
0800 608088				
Alliance & Leicester	1.50	to £150k	95	Fixed to 1.4.97
0116 2726289				
Northern Rock	0.98	£100-150k	75	High Equity dis
0800 591 500				6.4% to 1.5.97
Bank of Ireland	1.75	£15k+	90	5.50% discount
0800 400899				for 12 months
Barclays	3.50	£15k+	90	3.75% discount
0800 000825				for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hindley & Ruggley	0.11	£1-150k	70	7.14% discount
0800 774492				for 9 months
Scotiabank	0.05	to £150k	70	Super Fix Rate
0800 591 500				for 12 months
Nottingham Imperial	0.48	£15k+	75	Fixed to 31.7.97
0115 551 7220				
Bank of Ireland	0.98	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc-6 mth
01734 510100				3% disc-6 mth
NatWest Bank	1.75	£15k+	95	3.75% discount
0800 400899				for 12 months

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Gross rate	At tax rates	At tax rates	At tax rates	At tax rates	At tax rates	At tax rates	At tax rates	At tax rates	At tax rates
Ordinary A/c	1.75	1.40	1.05	10-10,000**	1mth	0545 645000			
Investment A/c	5.00	4.00	3.00	20-500**	3mth	0545 645000			
Income Bond	6.25	5.00	3.75	20,000-25,000**	1mth	0545 645000			
First Opt Bond	6.25	5.00	3.75	20,000-25,000**	1mth	0545 645000			
43rd Issue Cert	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0545 645000			
Children's Bond	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0545 645000			
Gen Est Rate	3.51			100-250,000	8day	0545 645000			
Capital Bonds	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0545 645000			
9th Index Link	2.50			500-50,000	60day	0545 645000			
Pension Bond SS	7.00	5.80	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0545 645000			

* Best £70, £140 m of m. in b. one. next accs for up to £100. * Additional holds up to £20,000 for requested proceeds. * Tax free. * Rates gross and while guaranteed when held for 5 years. * 0.3% net bonus for £20,000 - £100,000 p in addition to 5% and 5% holds. * Taxable but 0.3% net bonus for £20,000 - £100,000 p in addition to 5% and 5% holds. * Taxable but 0.3% net bonus for £20,000 - £100,000 p in addition to 5% and 5% holds.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential Level	£10,467	£11,495	£12,883
MGM Assur Level	£10,199	£11,271	£12,737
Canada Life Level	£10,588	£11,227	£12,810
Norwich Un Level	£10,261	£11,221	£12,553
Strid Life Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584
SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Norwich Un Level	£9,722	£10,458	£11,549
Prudential Level	£9,710	£10,443	£11,528
MGM Assur Level	£9,458	£10,219	£11,347
Royal Life Level	£9,305	£10,138	£11,364
Sun Lf of Can Level	£9,372	£10,103	£11,185
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential Level	£9,323	£9,895	£10,708
Norwich Un Level	£9,301	£9,847	£10,657
MGM Assur Level	£9,053	£9,670	£10,518
Sun Lf of Can Level	£9,026	£9,605	£10,389
Strid Life Level	£9,002	£9,568	£10,378

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Jersey Direct (0171 589 3382)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West	0.95	£15k+	95	6.30% disc 6 mth
0800 608088				2.25% disc 6 mth
Lambeth	3.98	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount
0171 929 1331				for 12 months
Newcastle	4.48	£5-150k	95	2.50% discount
01835 43678				for 12 months
Bank of Ireland	0.98	£20-145k	95	8.50% disc 6 mth
01734 510100				3% disc 6 months
TSB Bank	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount
Local branch				for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans, and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

IS YOUR TESSA GIVING YOU UP TO 11% P.A.?

For the top rates and our free TESSA guide call us now. CALL NOW ON FREEPHONE 0800 526 092. CHASE DE VERE.

	Bid	Offer	Why	%		Bid	Offer	Why	%
AEON LIFE ASSURANCE					U.K. Opportunity 228.00 240.00 + 0.50				
Aegion Life Assurance, Luxembourg London					Euro Opportunity 250.00 278.00 + 0.30				
AEON Ltd	51.00	51.00	-	0.00	North America	250.00	278.00	-	0.00
Retained	521.00	562.00	-	0.11	Far East Cap	227.00	240.00	-	0.00
AEON Ltd	51.00	51.00	-	0.00	Far East Cap	227.00	240.00	-	0.00
AEON Ltd	521.00	562.00	-	0.11	Far East Cap	227.00	240.00	-	0.00
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AEON Ltd	521.00	562.00	-	0.11	Far East Cap	227.00	240.00	-	0.00
AEON Ltd	51.00	51.00	-	0.00	Far East Cap	227.00	240.00	-	0.00
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AEON Ltd	51.00	51.00	-	0.00	Far East Cap	227.00	240.00	-	0.00
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AEON Ltd	51								

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Slowness of Halifax conversion is causing hardship

From Mr Serge Lourie

Sir, At the annual general meeting of the Halifax Building Society, held this week, members questioned the board on why the proposed vote on conversion to bank status was taking so long, but to no avail.

This is admittedly a very complex transaction, but the proposed takeover of the Leeds and conversion were announced as long ago as November 1994 and the merger took place on August 1, 1995. We simply do not believe that it should take over two years and three months to prepare for a vote in February 1997 with possible conversion in the summer of 1997.

It is clear that many investors, especially in Peps, are still locked into the society and suffering financial hardship. I have heard from older investors who are reluctant to spend their savings because they wish to receive their issue of shares. The society is inflexible in its progress to the vote, and all that we are ever told is that "it is all very complicated".

We are also concerned that, in spite of considerable prodding from investors and from the Halifax Action Group, the board refuses to give any real indication of the basis of the allocation of shares between the "fixed" and "variable" distributions, leaving investors unclear on what they can expect if conversion were to be agreed.

There is a high degree of unease about the whole pro-

cess, which was reflected at the AGM in members' questions. It also explains why Peter Judge and I did substantially better than last year in elections to the board, securing more than 385,000 votes between us. If the voting were by ballot, as allowed by the Building Societies Act and the

rules of the society, rather than by proxy, I am confident that we would have done substantially better and had a good chance of winning. Yours faithfully, SERGE LOURIE, Halifax Action Group, 50 Burlington Avenue, Richmond, Surrey.

Sids still wanted by British Gas

From the Chairman, British Gas

Sir, There is one comment in your well-researched and well-argued article on British Gas ("Sids left cold by prospect of price curbs", Weekend Money, May 18) which needs to be clarified. Far from trying to "rid the company of Sids", the Board of British Gas is most anxious that they remain shareholders and support the company in its efforts to disengage Ofgas from expropriating their income.

What we have said is that if our demerger goes ahead and any shareholder wants to remain in what is known cur-

rently as TransCo International rather than have an additional share certificate for what is known as British Gas Energy, which would be unlikely to pay a dividend in the short term, then we will look at ways of allowing small shareholders to sell shares in British Gas Energy at no cost. In the meantime, any British Gas shareholders wishing to express their opinion on Ofgas's proposals during the current consultation period should write to Ofgas.

Yours truly, RICHARD GIORDANO, British Gas, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, WC2.

Performance of friendly societies

From Mr S. E. Maitland

Sir, With reference to the article "Friendly societies lose some friends" (May 18) apropos the disappointing performance of friendly societies due to their high management fees, it is of interest to note that Family Assurance has just raised its charges.

At a time when managers of Peps and unit trusts are reduc-

ing their charges, this increase does seem rather inappropriate. I have been contributing to the Family Managed Performance Fund for six years and the growth rate has been just 3 per cent per annum on a bid/offer basis. Yours faithfully, S. E. MAITLAND, Ham Cottage, Millford Road, Elstead, Surrey.

Sunshine all the way with Florida bank

From Mr Melville Bernstein

Sir, Is Richard Thomson ("American dream or a nightmare for customers", Weekend Money, May 18) living in the same land that I do?

My US account is with Great Western, a very large Californian bank with an extensive branch network in eastern Florida.

Free banking if I'm in credit, no charge for ATM withdrawals from their own machines, very clear, detailed monthly statements airmailed to the UK at no charge, including returned cheques. Free phone calls to the Californian computer centre with almost-human voices giving me the alternatives (in English or Spanish) of last five cheques, last five deposits, current balance, details of a specific cheque and more.

My telephone and electric power bills are paid automatically every month, even though it's not called Direct Debit. Automatic Funds Transfer is the expression they use, but it's still automatic payment of varying amounts at fixed intervals.

Lloyds have been my UK bankers for more years than I care to remember. They don't yet offer the same service as my US bank, and certainly are smarter at charging fees than their US counterparts. Their only advantage is free cheques, but Great Western



6ED

Bank's fee for cheques works out at around \$5 annually for the number of cheques that I use.

Maybe it's time for Richard Thomson to change banks.

Yours sincerely, MELVILLE BERNSTEIN, Daryl Industries Limited, Alfred Road, Wallasey, Wirral.

Letters to the Weekend Money section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-762 5062.

The branch that puts ladies first

From Mrs Shelagh Addis

Sir, Three cheers for Lloyds Bank in England's smallest city. My late husband and I had a joint account which put my name first - Mrs S.A. and A.P.S. Addis - and all correspondence was thus addressed. Yours faithfully, SHELAGH ADDIS, 84 St Thomas Street, Wells, Somerset.

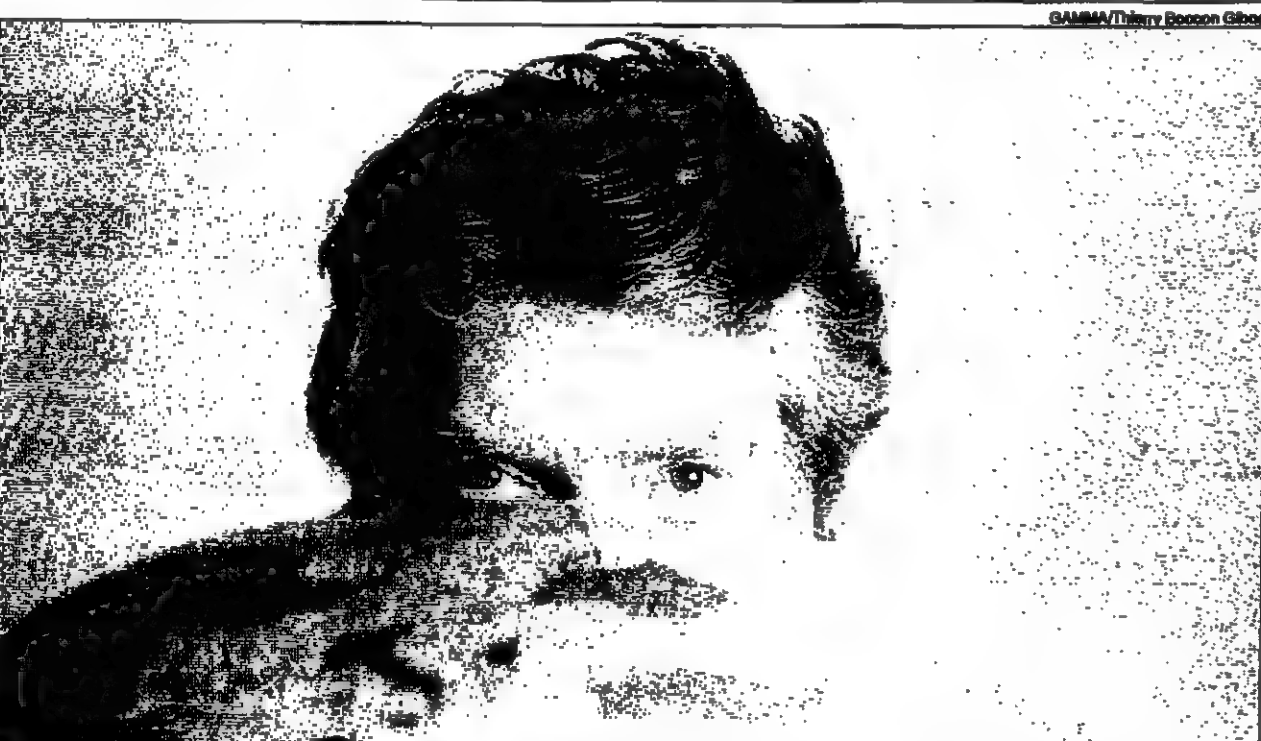
APRIL CGT ALLOWANCES

THE INDEXED RISE FOR CALCULATING THE INDEXATION ALLOWANCE ON ASSETS THAT WERE DISPOSED OF IN APRIL 1996

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
January	-	0.847	0.757	0.673	0.585	0.526	0.477
February	-	0.839	0.750	0.660	0.580	0.520	0.472
March	0.921	0.836	0.744	0.644	0.578	0.517	0.466
April	0.883	0.811	0.721	0.610	0.562	0.499	0.442
May	0.870	0.803	0.715	0.603	0.560	0.498	0.437
June	0.864	0.799	0.711	0.599	0.560	0.498	0.432
July	0.864	0.799	0.713	0.602	0.565	0.499	0.430
August	0.863	0.791	0.697	0.598	0.560	0.495	0.414
September	0.864	0.773	0.693	0.599	0.552	0.490	0.408
October	0.855	0.767	0.683	0.598	0.550	0.483	0.394
November	0.846	0.761	0.678	0.591	0.537	0.476	0.387
December	0.849	0.755	0.679	0.589	0.532	0.477	0.383

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
January	0.375	0.277	0.172	0.125	0.107	0.080	0.045	0.016
February	0.365	0.270	0.165	0.120	0.099	0.074	0.039	0.011
March	0.359	0.257	0.161	0.118	0.095	0.071	0.035	0.007
April	0.385	0.220	0.147	0.099	0.085	0.058	0.024	
May	0.327	0.209	0.143	0.095	0.082	0.055	0.020	
June	0.322	0.204	0.138	0.085	0.052	0.055	0.019	
July	0.321	0.203	0.141	0.099	0.085	0.060	0.023	
August	0.318	0.191	0.138	0.099	0.080	0.055	0.018	
September	0.309	0.180	0.134	0.095	0.075	0.052	0.013	
October	0.299	0.171	0.130	0.091	0.078	0.051	0.019	
November	0.286	0.174	0.125	0.092	0.078	0.050	0.019	
December	0.285	0.175	0.125	0.098	0.075	0.045	0.013	

The 1st month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.



Brave new world: Richard Branson's Virgin Direct will widen the choice for consumers seeking life insurance - but at a price

Cherry-picking with Virgin

Marianne Curphey on the move by name brands into financial services

Could you in the future be buying the Marks & Spencer Pep, the Sony home insurance plan and the Sainsbury mortgage?

Further evidence that big name brands are muscling in on the personal finance sector came this week with the launch of life and critical illness insurance from Virgin Direct, the financial services arm of Richard Branson's Virgin Group.

Virgin Direct is hoping to imitate the success of its personal equity plan operation with the launch of a low-cost life insurance company.

Initially, it will sell the products to the 70,000 people who have taken out Peps with Virgin Direct, but it will follow up with a full launch on June 9. Virgin is not the only company to think of using its well-recognised brand name to diversify into investments and financial services. Marks & Spencer offers life insurance and personal pensions; Volkswagen is looking at the possibility of selling motor insurance; Direct Line has expanded into mortgage services; and Tesco is believed to have banking ambitions.

Nic Round, an independent financial adviser, said: "Virgin will charge lower premiums, and this launch will help give

consumers choice and increase quality of products and services offered by advisers.

"However, Virgin says the products will be tailored to suit individual needs. This is cherry picking and, taken to the extreme, means it will prefer to insure only those in excellent health." He also pointed out

that many people could obtain life cover far more cheaply by attaching it to a personal pension and getting tax relief on the premiums paid.

Mark Bolland, of Chamberlain de Broc, said: "The problem with buying products by telephone is that you have to be absolutely clear about what

you are buying and what type of insurance you want. Telephone sellers are not qualified to give callers financial advice."

Mr Bolland counsels caution when choosing these products. Do you, for example, want a policy which is renewed every ten years, or do you want one which can be converted into a whole-of-life policy to ensure that you will always be able to obtain life cover, even if you have had a serious illness?

HOW VIRGIN PRODUCTS COMPARE

10-year term assurance for £100,000.

Female non-smoker aged 29 next birthday:

	per month
Virgin Direct	£6.30
General Accident	£6.90
Century Life plc	£7.50
Legal & General	£8.00
Scottish Widows	£8.00
Zurich Life	£8.10
Norwich Union	£12.20

Male smoker aged 50 next birthday:

	per month
SA Progress	£59.80
Virgin Direct	£64.81
General Accident	£71.49
Crowe Life	£72.80
Lutine Assurance	£73.23
Permanent	£105.70
Clifford Medical	£107.70

Critical illness, £100,000, term 10 years.

Female non-smoker aged 29 next birthday:

	per month
Virgin Direct	£10.78
Legal & General	£13.87
Allied Dunbar	£16.22
Canada Life	£18.10
Zurich Life	£24.10
Swiss Life	£25.95
Royal Insurance	£27.34

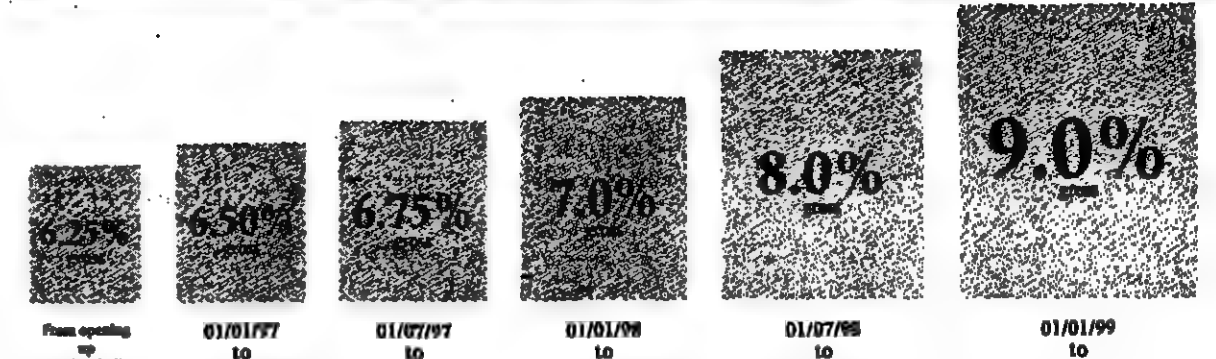
Male smoker aged 50 next birthday:

	per month
Virgin Direct	£99.80
Legal & General	£149.33
Canada Life	£182.80
Swiss Life	£174.78
Zurich Life	£206.30
Allied Dunbar	£214.22
Royal Insurance	£236.38

Limited Issue.

A THREE YEAR INVESTMENT WITH A GUARANTEED RATE INCREASE EVERY 6 MONTHS.

NOW THAT IS INTERESTING!



If you're looking for a high interest investment with guaranteed rates, why not try The Derbyshire? Peak Bond Issue 3 offers a highly competitive initial rate of 6.25%, that is guaranteed to rise to 9.0% within a 3 year period. And with a minimum investment of £5000 and a maximum of £250,000, it's an excellent investment that will be hard to beat. Peak Bond Issue 3 is a limited offer, so to take advantage of this high interest opportunity simply complete the coupon below and return it with your cheque.

Please tick appropriate box: Please send further details of a Derbyshire Peak Bond Issue 3 account ☐. I/we enclose a cheque for £ (min £5000) made payable to Derbyshire Building Society to be invested in a Derbyshire Peak Bond Issue 3 account ☐.

Full name(s): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Signature(s): _____

Please note: We will send you an investment account opening form when acknowledging your cheque. Post to Derbyshire Building Society, FREEPOST, Duffield Hall, Duffield, Derby DE56 9BA. (NB Freepost may take up to 3 working days. For a faster delivery you may wish to use first class post.)

Be Derbysure with The Derbyshire

Derbyshire Building Society, Duffield Hall, Duffield, Derby DE56 9AG

Interest will be payable net (after deduction) of income tax at the rate prescribed by law. It will be payable gross (without deduction) where you are able to provide us with an appropriate completed form complying with Inland Revenue regulations. If the rate deducted is greater than your rate liability, you can claim a higher rate taxpayer, you will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Maximum investment £250,000 in any one account and £250,000 for any one investor. No additional investments may be made to the account. Further investments may however be made by opening a new account subject to the account terms (provided the base is still available). Term runs to 30th June 1999 which interest (calculated daily from the day following the date of investment) payable monthly on 28th June commencing 1997. Withdrawals will be allowed only (i) on the death of an account holder or (ii) with a penalty equal to 180 days loss of interest on the amount withdrawn. At the interest rate applying to the account, even if this means we have to take money out of your account. Please note Peak Bond is a short term investment with Derbyshire Building Society. The Society may close or cease to operate as a result of the insolvency of the parent company. Full details are available from Derbyshire Building Society, Duffield Hall, Duffield, Derby DE56 9AG. Any enquiries about the account may be made during normal office hours on 01332 841000.

GUARANTEED 6.25%* p.a. net (7.8% Gross equivalent for basic rate taxpayer. Tax not recoverable.)

A better return with no risk and net of basic-rate tax. Interested?

Compare the return on a NatWest Guaranteed Bond with a typical building society savings account and you'll soon see how much better off you could be.

The rate will be guaranteed for the full five year term (two year rates also available). And you have the option of taking regular monthly or annual income, or leaving your money to accumulate and take a lump sum payment at the end. All without risking your capital.

So, if you have between £5,000 and £50,000 to invest, it'll pay you to call us direct, or send the coupon today. This offer is for a limited period only, so you need to act quickly to secure your bond.

Call Direct 0800 255 200

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To The Manager, NatWest FREEPOST London EC3R 3JL. No stamp required. Please send me more details and an Application Form for the NatWest Guaranteed Bond.

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms Initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel: () _____

*This rate is for five year growth or annual income, and is net of basic-rate tax which is not recoverable by non-taxpayers. Rates differ dependent on option chosen. Money invested in a building society is normally easily accessible, and is not generally for a fixed term. If you cash in your NatWest Guaranteed Bond before the end of the chosen term, you could get back less than you invested. National Westminster Bank Plc and NatWest Bank Limited are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and FSA, and are members of the NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group, and can advise on the life insurance, pensions and unit trust products only of this Marketing Group. The NatWest Guaranteed Bond is provided by National Westminster Life Assurance Limited, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business. Calls with NatWest may be monitored/recorded to maintain and improve our service. National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered Number 2622027 England. Registered Office: 41 Lombard, London EC2P 3BP.

WE WANT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

صحة من الامم

Equities claw back early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
15.10	14.90	Carlsberg	15.00	+0.20	4.5	18.5
15.10	14.90	Carlsberg	15.00	+0.20	4.5	18.5
BANKS						
11.10	11.00	Bank of Ireland	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Bank of Ireland	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST						
11.10	11.00	Guinness	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Guinness	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS						
11.10	11.00	Unilever	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Unilever	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES						
11.10	11.00	Volvo	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Volvo	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
11.10	11.00	Unilever	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Unilever	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
ELECTRICITY						
11.10	11.00	Electricity	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Electricity	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
11.10	11.00	Building	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Building	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
11.10	11.00	Electronic	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Electronic	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
HEALTHCARE						
11.10	11.00	Healthcare	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Healthcare	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
HOUSEHOLD GOODS						
11.10	11.00	Household	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Household	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
ENGINEERING						
11.10	11.00	Engineering	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Engineering	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
CHEMICALS						
11.10	11.00	Chemicals	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Chemicals	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
DISTRIBUTORS						
11.10	11.00	Distributors	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Distributors	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
PHARMACEUTICALS						
11.10	11.00	Pharmaceuticals	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Pharmaceuticals	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
SUPPORT SERVICES						
11.10	11.00	Support Services	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Support Services	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
PRINTING & PAPER						
11.10	11.00	Printing & Paper	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Printing & Paper	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
MINING						
11.10	11.00	Mining	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Mining	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
LEISURE & HOTELS						
11.10	11.00	Leisure & Hotels	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Leisure & Hotels	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
PROPERTY						
11.10	11.00	Property	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Property	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS						
11.10	11.00	Telecommunications	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Telecommunications	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
TEXTILES & APPAREL						
11.10	11.00	Textiles & Apparel	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Textiles & Apparel	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
OIL & GAS						
11.10	11.00	Oil & Gas	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Oil & Gas	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
MEDIA						
11.10	11.00	Media	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Media	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
OTHER FINANCIAL						
11.10	11.00	Other Financial	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Other Financial	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
RETAILERS, FOOD						
11.10	11.00	Retailers, Food	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Retailers, Food	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
RETAILERS, GENERAL						
11.10	11.00	Retailers, General	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Retailers, General	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
WATER						
11.10	11.00	Water	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Water	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET						
11.10	11.00	Alternative Inv Market	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5
11.10	11.00	Alternative Inv Market	11.00	+0.10	5.5	12.5

Saturday Portrait: Tessa Sanderson by David Powell, athletics correspondent

Joan Collins of javelin aims for dramatic final episode of dynasty

One curiosity of athletics is that women are classed as veterans at 35, men at 40. So, Linford Christie has four years to go while Tessa Sanderson is now in her sixth year "throwing for the grannies", as she put it once. Come Atlanta in July, when the 40-year-old Sanderson is set to become the first British Olympian to appear in six Games, she will be the oldest slinger in town — but she can still dance to the beat.

When Sanderson held a javelin in competition for the first time in four years last Saturday, she threw it an Olympic qualifying distance, defeating her much younger rivals, to win her event at the International Games in Bedford. She is the Joan Collins of her sport, well preserved in appearance, seemingly indestructible, and a fiery opponent who, among other conquests, has been to the High Court and won. She has a fine sense of the theatrical, too.

Bedford was the scene for act one. Act two is the formality of finishing in the first three of the British Olympic trials in Birmingham next month to secure her Olympic berth. Act three is the Games themselves, which Sanderson believes may script her a medal.

Not unreasonably, after three throws just beyond 60 metres last weekend, she is confident of exceeding 65 metres in Atlanta. That is medal territory. Today, in the Welsh Games in Cardiff, she will be looking to improve on the 60.64 metres that she threw in Bedford.

Sanderson's greatest achievements were her 1984 triumph in Los Angeles, still the only Olympic victory by a British thrower, and her three Commonwealth Games gold medals. She already holds the record for Olympic appearances by a British woman, whether she appears in Atlanta or not. At her peak, in 1983, she threw 73.58 metres and established five Commonwealth records between 1976 and 1983.

It all began as a bet for a bag of chips. At 14, she tried throwing a javelin for the first time, striking a wager with a school friend over who could throw further.

Her first Olympics was in Montreal in 1976 when, as a 9st, fresh-faced 20-year-old, she did not look the part. "Sprinters that way," Karin Smith, an American competitor, said, pointing her elsewhere, when Sanderson began to walk into the arena with the other throwers.

This was the Olympics of Alberto Juantorena, of Lasse Viren, the year that Harold Wilson resigned as prime minister, the year that Bjorn Borg won his first Wimbledon title. The last time that an Olympics went ahead without Sanderson, Jim Ryan was still chasing an elusive 1,500 metres title.

Sanderson has always been one of the sport's characters, from the day that, as a newcomer to the Britain team, she took the stage in

'Sanderson has always been one of the sport's characters'

a Romanian dance hall to give her impression of one of The Supremes, to the comment that she made, as a veteran of 38, that "it is wonderful to have guys whistling at you — that is why you should make an effort to look good."

Her career in athletics had been notable not only for her successes but for her running battles with Andy Norman, Britain's promotions officer, and her intense rivalry with Fatima Whitbread, the 1987 world champion and a regular team colleague.

Once Sanderson pulled out of a meeting at Crystal Palace in protest at the level of her appearance fee, compared with that given to Whitbread, Norman's close friend. On Whitbread, she said two years ago: "We are not desperate enemies. If there was a war, we would be on the same side, I think."

Sanderson's biggest appearance fee came from the High Court in 1990. She was awarded £30,000 in damages over newspaper claims that she had stolen another woman's husband. Sanderson insisted that her affair with Derrick Evans, who would become known as GMTV's Mr Motivator, had not begun until after the break-up of his marriage.

By this time, Sanderson, who appeared in Los Angeles as a curly-haired, round-faced, non-sexy athlete, had realised the benefits of developing her femininity. In 1990 she started as a sports news reader on BSkyB, better seen than heard. Her name and make-up survived a two-year battle against her uncomfortable delivery before she was made redundant. She told of how being "glamorous and feminine" was important to her — to the point that she became pushy with it.

"I have always loved my bum — Levi has missed out not getting me to advertise its jeans," was one example. "I've got the looks, I've got the figure, there is nothing I could not endorse," was another.

She has also shown a remarkable durability for an event which Brian Roberts, her coach, considers to be, along with the triple jump, "the event where athletes put the most strain on their joints and are most prone to injury."

While spared the misfortune of Whitbread, who was forced to retire prematurely because of shoulder trouble, Sanderson has not escaped injury entirely. Her worst moment came in 1988 when, as defending Olympic champion, she gashed a tendon at a training camp in Japan and was on crutches only days before flying to Seoul. The wound burst during the qualifying round, she failed to reach the final, and she returned home with her leg in plaster.

In 1976 she was tenth; in 1980 she was rated as a possible champion, a probable medal winner, but seized up with nerves and was eliminated at the qualifying stage. The contrast of Los Angeles with Seoul was then followed by fourth place — and first veteran in Barcelona in 1992. That summer



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

ended with her appearance in the World Cup in Havana. It was to have been one last competition before retirement, not to be taken too seriously, she said. "I am only here for the kit," she said, but there was a hint of what was to come in 1996. Was that definitely it, she was asked? "I cannot rule temptation out," she replied — and here she is again, inspired by the possibility of raising £1 million

for the charity Children in Hospital. Born in St Elizabeth, Jamaica, Sanderson was brought up by her grandparents in the Caribbean, her mother and father having emigrated to England. At the age of eight she followed them, settling in the Midlands, though she lives in Essex now. Her first international championship was the 1974 Commonwealth Games, when she

finished fifth at the age of 17. She won the next one, in 1978, then again in 1986 and 1990.

Arguably, she owed her Olympic victory to a stroke of good fortune. She broke the Olympic record with her first throw. In the second round, Tina Lilak, from Finland, the world record holder, came within two feet of Sanderson. However, Lilak, who had won the 1983 world championship with a

last-round throw, was unable to take any further part because of a stress fracture in her right foot.

Sanderson, who was appointed MBE in 1985, has appeared on *This Is Your Life* and *Surprise Surprise*. Most Christmas you can find her in pantomime. Last season it was as Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* at Lewisham, before she put down her magic wand and picked up her Olympic torch.

Blundell's driving ambition stalled

FOR A few seconds, the husband looked up to the sky in impatience. Beside him, his wife argued at the office window about the missing tickets. Behind him, a metal billboard fell over in the wind and rain. "Who are you again?" a woman behind the glass asked. "Just a California family who gave up the Indy 500 to be here," he said.

Suddenly, the reality is sinking in and some of the martyrs are beginning to rue the sacrifices that they have made. They have forsaken the Indianapolis 500 for its new rival, the US 500, which will take place tomorrow here at the Michigan International Speedway. They have turned their backs on an institution.

They will have the leading drivers and the presence of celebrity owners such as Paul Newman, Joe Montana and David Letterman. They will console themselves with the fact that the field at Indianapolis consists almost entirely of raw novices and rusty veterans. If their heads say Michigan, though, their hearts are still saying Indy. "The bottom line is that the players are here and the theatre is somewhere else," Mario Andretti, a legend in United States motor sport, said yesterday. "The Indy 500 without IndyCar drivers is like *La Scala* in Milan without Pavarotti or Domingo."

Mark Blundell, the sole Briton in the US 500, knew about the political problems when he agreed to race for the PacWest team at the beginning of this year, but, like most observers, he assumed that the warring factions — the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the IndyCar team owners — would

bury their differences for the sake of preserving the most famous motor race in the world.

"It is disappointing for me," Blundell said as he prepared for the first of two practice sessions here. "I have won the Le Mans 24-hour race and I have driven in the Monaco Grand Prix. I was looking forward to racing in the Indianapolis 500 just to round things off in my portfolio, but it is not to be this year at least. The way Indianapolis has handled it has made it impossible."

"The spectators who go there rather than here, though, will not be seeing the cream of the crop. Ultimately, I am happy to be here at Michigan because I am going to be sitting with the best IndyCar drivers around me. When you

are travelling at more than 230mph, that gives you confidence."

Blundell's move from Formula One to IndyCars, three seasons after Nigel Mansell won the series at his first attempt, has not yet worked out as he had hoped. He was lucky to escape with his life when he crashed in an oval race in Rio de Janeiro on March 17, hitting a concrete wall at 197mph after a brake failure. He has missed the past three races because of his injuries.

The US 500 is a daunting place for a comeback. Its banked sides are so steep that, when you drive a road car around it at 30mph, it seems as though it is going to tip over. It was here that Blundell got back into his IndyCar for the first time after his accident.



Blundell emerges from the wreckage of his crash in Rio de Janeiro

"I was apprehensive, to say the least," he said. "The first few laps completely threw me. I was back in at the deep end on a circuit where the average speed is about 225mph and I was looking at the walls as I was going round and thinking: 'Do I really need this?' I came back into the pits, but then I began thinking about ways I could gain time here and there and it got better. I did 79 laps that day and I came away a racing driver again."

"I have never had an accident that has made me think twice about getting back in the car before. When Scott Brayton was killed in practice at Indianapolis ten days ago, it brought it home to me how lucky I had been."

Blundell will start the US 500 from seventeenth on the grid, with Jimmy Vasser, the championship leader, on pole. Vasser is the favourite for the race here, but nobody really stands out from the dross at Indianapolis.

Lyn St James, the woman who cost Mansell victory at the Speedway in 1993 when her crash brought out the yellow flags and bunched up the field, will be there, and Michele Alboreto, the former Ferrari driver who is fourth in the standings of the Indy Racing League, the breakaway organisation that is competing with the IndyCar series.

It was Brayton, though, who had claimed pole position at Indianapolis a few days before he was killed. His death has robbed the race of one of the most experienced drivers in the field. It briefly brought the two sides in IndyCar racing together again in shared grief; tomorrow the rift will be wider than ever.

Sofa so good for athlete displaying real potential

Her skirt has ridden to a point fractionally below her waist "revealing", in the immortal words of Tom Lehrer "for all of the others to see/Just what it was that endeared you to me". Headless, she smiles.



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

ing the wrong beer last year. He will be sacked if there is a third offence.

Head start

Best of luck to Hur Nam-jin. As South Korea fight for the right to hold the 2002 football World Cup, Hur shows his solidarity with the nation



by setting out to break his own world record — seven hours and three minutes — for ball-juggling using only his head.

□ We have had sex and religion; now it is time for politics. President Clinton has a two-word reply to all his aides who tell him of the huge lead that he enjoys over Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate — "Greg Norman".

Old grievance

Marge Schott Corner. Yes, the pro-Marge backlash has arrived. While powerful men in baseball are trying to find ways of elbowing this troublesome old lady and owner of the Cincinnati Reds from their game, a number of devotees have declared themselves as Schott supporters. They are taking to home games placards that read "Leave Marge alone" and "Take me out to the ball

game — as long as Marge owns the team". Marge, as readers of this column know, is just a sweet old lady with a soft spot for Adolf Hitler.

Take Brat

Congratulations to the man who has won the most coveted prize that the United States has to offer — the father of the year award. This year the National Father's Day Committee gave the award to that well-known role model and divorcé — John McEnroe. "It's like winning the Wimbledon title," he said. Can he be serious?

Brave shot

At last some golfers to admire. A Red Badge of Courage goes to every golfer who plays the 16th hole at Shelby Park course in Nashville, Tennessee. I tell you, that hole is a tiger, and many golfers have taken to missing it out altogether — in the past months, there have been two robberies and one attempted robbery there. Robbers hide in the weeds and leap out on unsuspecting golfers. Hands up! Your pink polyester trousers or your life!

Base thoughts

The state totters. The England Under-15 cricket squad, preparing for the Lombard World Challenge this summer, has taken on a baseball coach, Julien Fountain, formerly a player with the British baseball squad, has been teaching the boys how to throw properly.

Shane again

Let joy be unconfined! Yes, I bring you the greatest possible news. The operation on Shane Warne's spinning finger was a complete success. He now undergoes a course of intensive physiotherapy. Soon, it is hoped, the finger will recover full fitness.

England warned of exclusion

By RICHARD EATON

THE International Badminton Federation (IBF) has warned that England risks exclusion from the next Thomas and Uber Cups, the world team competitions, because it fielded weakened squads in the event that reaches its conclusion tomorrow in Hong Kong.

The absences of Julie Bradbury, Joanne Wright and Simon Archer — who preferred to continue their preparations for the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July — have caused the IBF to issue an ominously worded statement.

"The IBF views the English team strength as a serious issue," it said. "The regulations state that the committee of management has the power to reject the entry of any member association whose entry is considered against the

interest of the competition or the game."

The timing of the statement is a surprise. The IBF is still waiting for all the evidence before its disciplinary committee can reach a verdict. Yet it has made known its doubts about the role of the Badminton Association of England (BAE), asking publicly why it did not advise the IBF before the preliminary rounds that there was a possibility that England would send an under-strength team.

John Havers, the chairman of the BAE, said: "We are desperately disappointed to be put in the dock by the IBF, who have not, perhaps, fully understood the complicated nature of the British Badminton Olympic Committee set-up and I would certainly fight any move to take us out of the

Thomas and Uber Cups. It would be better to reach an amicable settlement."

"Without biting anyone, we are showing our fangs," David Shaw, the IBF executive director, said. "We are not prejudging the issue. The disciplinary committee is fully aware of the arcane British system and its complications." Meanwhile, in the competition, Poul-Erik Hoyer, the All-England champion, helped to create a sensation by beating Dong Jiong, the world No. 1, and leading Denmark to a 3-2 victory over China which earned them a place in the Thomas Cup final against Indonesia, who comfortably saw off South Korea.

Hoyer was 13-1 down in the second game and match point down at 17-14 before winning 6-15, 18-17, 15-11.

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Beardsley's lessons reap reward

Barmby ready to graduate from finishing school

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN HONG KONG

ENGLAND have one more obstacle to jump before the start of the European championship and, with all due respect to the Golden Select XI, their opponents tomorrow night, the Hong Kong leg of their Far East tour should be more of a bunny hop than a giant leap.

This is payday for the Football Association, a chance to fly the flag — St George's, that is, not the green one of the sponsors — in the old territory before the handover to China next year and to bang a drum for football in Hong Kong. Whatever Terry Venables, the England coach, may say, nothing too serious can be learnt from an exhibition match against such familiar stalwarts as Mike Duxbury, Carlton Fairweather and the specially-imported Dave Watson.

Barring disruption by injury, the 22 places in the final squad must be already fixed in the mind of Venables, with some have said, its special corner reserved for Tottenham Hotspur connections. The immediate rehabilitation of Anderton, the perseverance with Sheringham and the final chance for the recently-departed Barmby — there is a certain consistency to the thread.

Few, though, would begrudge the impish Barmby his place, especially after his two goals against China. Quick, tough, positionally intelligent, totally committed, he has, with some justification, been labelled the new Beardsley. The pair room together on England duty. Beardsley talks, Barmby listens — and the success of the tutorials could be proved in the cruellest way next week if Barmby, at 22 the younger by 13 years, ousts his mentor from the championship squad.

Barmby tried to play down the possibility. "There are five or six forwards," he said. "I don't see it as a straight fight between me and Peter, but, if it was and I got it, I know he would be the first to shake my hand."

A parting of the ways might be for the best. For all his little-boy looks and schoolboy complexion, Barmby needs to establish his own identity for

club and country. A bright start for both, culminating in glowing reviews for his international debut against Colombia last autumn and universal surprise at Middlesbrough's drive into the top six of the FA Carling Premiership, turned only to disappointment and decline.

Barmby had no room to exploit Norway's compressed midfield, was out of sorts in the next international, too, and was dropped. So were Middlesbrough, despite the potentially explosive pairing with Juninho. An ankle injury, which forced Barmby out for three weeks, compounded, or perhaps precipitated, the fledgling's loss of confidence. By the time that it had started to return, the season was almost over and Teddy Sheringham, his striking partner for one sprightly season at White Hart Lane before Barmby's £5.25 million move back to his birthplace, had usurped his linking role in the England forward formation.

"He has taken a fair bit of criticism since Christmas, which was unfair," Robson said. "At times, Nick was trying too hard, trying to be everywhere on the field at once. When he's come back to the England set-up, he's been more relaxed and that showed against China."

Most impressive of all is Barmby's unflappable temperament. He rarely moans to the referee, never reacts to fouls. It is, he said, just his way — "I've always tried just to get on with my football, whatever the highs and lows."

Potentially, he is a better finisher than Beardsley, too. The delicate chip over the goalkeeper for his second goal in Peking was worthy of Linaker himself. If he shows the same skill on the grander stage, every one of the missionary miles that England have clocked up over the past few days will have been worth the effort.



Beardsley, left, and Barmby: master and apprentice

Pilgrim Pete given all-clear to watch Plymouth's progress

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

PLYMOUTH Argyle play at Wembley for the first time in their 110-year history this afternoon, when they take on Darlington in the Endersleigh Insurance League third division play-off final. The Devon city has emptied, with more than 35,000 supporters making the long trek up the M5 and M4. Even Pilgrim Pete, Argyle's wacky mascot, is due to appear.

Provocative Pete has been banned from such notable third division venues as Layer Road, Craven Cottage and Edgar Street this season, for his over-enthusiastic behaviour, but he has been given the all-clear — a blue security wristband — by Wembley officials. At the so-called Venue of Legends, he can play the fool as much as he likes.

Neil Warnock, the Plymouth manager, is more concerned with the serious

business of beating Darlington and securing a place in the second division. "Wembley is the best place in the world to play football," he said. "In fact, it's the only place."

It is Warnock's fourth visit for a play-off final and he holds a 100 per cent record, with Notts County, twice, and Huddersfield Town. Yet he would prefer that Argyle's campaign had already been concluded.

"People think I wanted to reach Wembley all along, but nothing could be further from the truth," he said. "Nobody wants a season to last ten months. I wanted us to go straight up."

Seven members of Plymouth's starting line-up have played at Wembley before. Steve Cherry, the goalkeeper, will make his fifth appearance, but for Gary Clayton, the midfielder, it will be

fourth time unlucky. Clayton, 33, has twice missed out because of injury, when playing for Cambridge United and Huddersfield, and once, again with Huddersfield, because he was cup-tied. A persistent groin strain keeps him out today.

Though Darlington are rated as underdogs, they have defeated Argyle twice in the league, lost only one away match this season and have been beaten only once in their past 22 games. "We're proud of our record," Jim Platt, the Darlington manager, said. "We've been proving the book-nappers wrong all season and we'll just have to do it again."

The club's share of the receipts, probably around £300,000, could prove vital. Bernard Lowery, the chairman, said: "If we hadn't had such a successful end to the season, we might not have been able to survive."

Notts County and Bradford City dispute the second division honours tomorrow. Colin Murphy, County's general manager, has proved himself as astute financially as he is tactically. Since arriving at Meadow Lane last summer, he has saved the club almost £250,000 by imposing a rigid wage structure.

"In this game, you need the ability to buy and sell," Murphy said. "That's probably one of the reasons I got the job. It needed drastic surgery here, but it's gone well. I just hope we acquit ourselves well at Wembley."

Germans win friends

WHETHER Germany will win the European football championship remains to be seen, but they made a determined effort to win hearts and minds in their base in the North West yesterday (Peter Ball writes). Bert Trautmann and Jürgen Klinsmann, England's two best-loved Germans, formed a reconnaissance party to meet the mayor of Manchester and hold their first press conference of the tournament.

When they arrive in

Manchester on June 6, they will hold a series of open practices which they hope local schools will attend. Yesterday Trautmann and Klinsmann said all the right things.

They were enthusiastic about England, fulsome about Old Trafford, where they play their three matches, and bullish about British beef. "I had my best scoring season of all eating British beef," Klinsmann said.

Hooligan raid, page 1



Ames takes a look at the line of a putt on his way to a 73 in the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth

Ames offers calm in eye of storm

Mel Webb reports from Wentworth on a golfer who has learnt to curb his volatile nature to the benefit of his game

I rained, and it blew; the weather needed to improve to be dreadful. It was no time even for being something waterproof, like a duck, let alone a professional golfer from infinitely sunnier climes trying to put together a half-decent score. So did Stephen Ames enjoy himself at Wentworth yesterday? Amazingly, he did: money may not buy happiness, but it definitely delays the onset of misery.

It was only five days ago that Ames, 32, who hails from Trinidad and Tobago, defied the worst that the elements could hurl at him to win the Benson and Hedges International title at The Oxfordshire and tucked a cheque for £117,000 into his hip pocket. In conditions about as far as they could be from the climate of his native land, he had taken on a world-class field and beaten it.

Much was made in the following morning's newspapers about the collapse of such luminaries as Montgomerie, Faldo, Langer, Woosnam and Ballesteros. Ames's closing 72, the best score of the day in the worst of the weather, was, if not forgotten, certainly not given the praise it deserved.

He was back on duty yesterday, playing alongside Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam. He performed at least as well as Woosnam and achieved the same score, 73. Admittedly, he was put in the shade somewhat by Faldo's 67 — but then, few were not.

It was a day for tramping miserably, muttering foul oaths under the breath and experiencing the fascinating sensation of cold water trickling relentlessly down one's neck.

It was enough to test the fortitude of a saint. Ames, though a halo was not in evidence, said he enjoyed it. "I had only one bad shot all day," he said. "I'm very happy with the way I'm striking the ball."

'His mind-set has changed from turbulent to peaceful'

Work with a sports psychologist has changed his mind-set from turbulent to peaceful. "My wife knows me better than anybody else, and even she says that I look very calm these days," he said. "It's made a real difference to me."

A real difference has also been made to him by his regular retreat into a basement just off Knightsbridge in the last few months. There he

put himself in the hands of two men who know as much about the mechanics of a golf swing as a virtuoso violinist knows about his Stradivarius. Steve Gould and David Wilkinson are disciples of the late Leslie King, the first man in this country to construct a complete template for the golf swing more than 50 years ago. They have been working with Ames for nine months, and are full of enthusiasm for their pupil's progress.

They have tightened and shortened his swing, which have given him more power and done a lot to eliminate a punishing duck-hook. It reared its head only once yesterday, and it led to one of only two bogeys on his card. "He is a model pupil," Gould said. "He was positive from the moment we started, and he takes everything we suggest on board."

Back at Wentworth, meanwhile, Ames was to be seen heading for the putting green. Two hours later he was still out there in the wind and the rain, putting and putting again. To do that you have to be either dedicated or loopy; and there is nothing even remotely crazy about Stephen Ames.

Educate gives lesson in short game

BY JOHN HENNESSY

THEN there was one, and that one guaranteed in advance. That might be the disappointing way that the Great Britain and Ireland Curtis Cup golf selectors will have viewed the third round of the English women's championship at Silloth-on-Solway yesterday.

The four English members of the team had survived to the last eight, but, by lunchtime, only Lisa Educate (nee Walton) was still involved, having dispatched Karen Stupples, another member of the team, at the 19th. In the top half of the draw, Julie Hall, the holder, and Elaine Ranciffe, the winner of the strokeplay stage of the competition earlier in the week, were beaten by Joanne Hockley and Sarah Gallagher, respectively.

At least Educate is still there, having given Sarah Sanderson a lesson in the afternoon semi-final. She now

meets Hockley, whose greater experience and maturity told against Gallagher.

Educate, married to an American of Italian ancestry (hence her unusual surname) was always likely to be too strong for Sanderson. Her attendance at an American University has given her a special air of confidence and composure and, if that were not enough, the words "San Jose State" writ large on her bag, carried an intimidating ring.

The story of her semi-final is soon told. Having lost the 2nd, she won three holes in a row from the 3rd, four in a row from the 7th, together with the 12th and 13th, after conceding the 11th with a third putt. Generally the two were virtually ball for ball through the green, but Educate's short game know-how was much superior.

Hockley against Gallagher was more closely fought, as, of

course, it had to be, but Gallagher could never eat further into Hockley's lead after a fine birdie at the 13th had brought her back to two down.

A series of halves from the 14th, with first one player then the other rescuing herself with admirable short game, left Gallagher two down with two to play. A kinder providence might have given her the 17th, but her putt for a win horse-shoed out, for the third time in the round.

Hall, who leaves competitive golf this year to take up a

post at St Andrews with the Ladies Golf Union, offered no excuse for her failure in the morning against Hockley, a fellow member of Felixstowe Ferry. "I just couldn't get it together," she said. "Thus she surrendered the English title that she had won the two previous years and is left, poor lass, with only the British, Australian and Spanish titles."

□ Amy Benz, of the United States, seeking the first win of her 13-year career, scored a 66, six under par, to take a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Corning Classic women's tournament in New York. Alison Nicholas, the defending champion, from England, collected a 70. Nicholas is trying to become the first repeat winner in the tournament's 18-year history. Nicholas captured her first victory in the United States last year at the Corning Classic, when she finished on 275, 13 under par.



Seve Ballesteros



Gordon Brand Jr



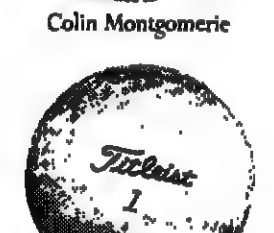
Tony Johnstone



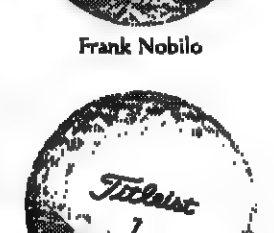
Bernhard Langer



Colin Montgomerie



Frank Nobilo



Jesper Parnevik



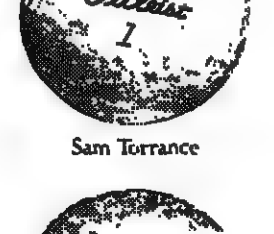
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Doubts over Seles add to French Open injury woes

BY ALEX RAMSAY



Seles: mental barrier

THERE are two days to go before the start of the French Open tennis championships and Roland Garros is a hive of activity, but the busiest people in Paris are the physiotherapists, trying frantically to patch up the ailing limbs of the world's leading players. The list of walking wounded grows ever longer and, after the withdrawal of Boris Becker (pulled thigh muscle), Gabriela Sabatini (pulled stomach muscle) and Chanda Rubin (wrist injury), there are now doubts over Thomas Muster and Monica Seles.

Seles withdrew from the Madrid Open yesterday before her semi-final match, complaining of a recurrence of the shoulder injury that has been plaguing her since the Australian

Open. It was her first tournament in three months and was her first appearance in Hamburg three years ago. She had wanted to overcome the mental barrier of playing in Europe again before going to the pressure-cooker atmosphere of the French Open, where she will play Caroline Dhenin, of France, in the first round.

It may be three years since Günter Parche almost destroyed Seles's career, but the scars are still as deep as ever. Parche attacked Seles in order that Steffi Graf could be No 1 in the world again, and that fact still places a huge divide between the players. "We don't really have any contact," Graf said. "Perhaps we are both a little afraid."

Thomas Muster, however, has nothing but happy memories of the

SEEDINGS

MEN: 1. P Sampras (US), 2. T Muster (Austria), 3. A Agassi (US), 4. M Chang (US), 5. G Lendl (US), 6. A Hatcher (GB), 7. J Courier (US), 8. T Enqvist (Swe), 9. M Rios (Chile), 10. W Ferreira (SA), 11. A Bouchie (FR), 12. A Costa (Sp), 13. R Krajicek (Hol), 14. M Rios (Sp), 15. M Stich (Ger), 16. M Westinghouse (US)

WOMEN: 1. S Graf (Ger), 2. M Seles (US), 3. A Sanchez-Vicario (Sp), 4. C Hingis (Sri), 5. I Llagostera (Sp), 6. A Hatcher (GB), 7. M Matheson (GB), 8. K Cooke (Ire), 9. L Davenport (US), 10. J Morar (Sp), 11. B Schickel-McCarthy (Aust), 12. M Pierce (Fr), 13. M J Fernandez (US), 14. A Contzer (SA), 15. M Hingis (Sri), 16. B Paus (Austria)

clay courts of Europe. He is the No 2 seed and defending champion in Paris, but his chances of reclaiming the title were hampered by an ankle injury sustained on Thursday during a warm-up session during the Raiffeisen grand prix event in Aus-

tria. Muster is undergoing regular treatment for the sprain, but may ask for a Tuesday start to his singles campaign.

Things are not looking too promising for Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, either. He had to pull out of his World Team Cup match in Düsseldorf suffering from back spasms, his first tournament since the death of Tim Lullikson, his coach, but, regardless of his mental or physical state, he will have his work cut out.

Last year he fell at the first hurdle to Gilbert Schaller, and this year he will have to engage top gear from the first day to get much further. His opening match pits him against Magnus Gustafsson, with the possibility of meeting Sergi Bruguera, the winner in Paris in 1993 and 1994, in the second round.

After that, Mats Wilander or Todd Martin could provide his next challenge and, should he survive that section of the draw, Jim Courier, another player to have won the title twice, is seeded to meet him in the quarter-finals.

Andre Agassi, the No 3 seed, has an easier start against a qualifier as he strives to face Sampras in the semi-finals, while Michael Chang, a finalist last year and seeded No 4, opens up against David Prinosil.

The British contingent may not be around long. Tim Henman faces Kris Goossens, of Belgium, in the first round before meeting Andrei Chesnokov or Guy Forget. Greg Rusedski does not have it much easier, with a qualifier in the first round and a probable meeting with Michael Stich after that.

SPORT

SATURDAY MAY 25 1996

Masters champion's illuminating round brightens his home supporters

Faldo steals Wentworth thunder

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ONE thunderous stroke helped Nick Faldo to seize the lead in the first round of the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth yesterday, a shot that proved to be a vivid shaft of brightness on a wet and dismal day. It served as a warning to his challengers that he is never so dangerous as when the pressure is at its greatest and reminded his home supporters of some of the qualities that enabled him to become Masters champion last month.

The effect of this stroke was heightened by the fact that it enabled Faldo to eagle the 18th hole on the West course for a 67, five under par, while his rivals failed to mount their anticipated challenge. Bernhard Langer, the defending champion, had a 73, as did Colin Montgomerie, on a day when everything that went right was wrong. Of Faldo's

Ames aims high — 43
Eduardo's lesson — 43

team-mates in the Ryder Cup, only Costantino Rocca had a round to write home about, a 69.

Severiano Ballesteros is playing so poorly that he is not a contender for a title such as this but even as he shows the first faltering signs of a return to form he has the capacity to demand attention. On the 12th, he hit a brick as he played his second shot, damaging the two iron he was using and sending his ball spiralling up into some trees where it lodged, causing him to identify it with binoculars before dropping another.

Fact turned to force at this point. As Ballesteros was about to play his replacement ball, his original one dropped out of the tree, nearly hitting him on the way. His seven was one of the more bizarrely-complicated sevens of his career. He took another on the 17th, this time in more conventional fashion, hitting his second shot out of bounds. In the circumstances, a homeward score of 40, three over par, and a round of 77 was a commendable effort when four shots had been squandered on two holes.

No one summarises their play so well as Montgomerie. He talks quickly, pithily and



Out on his own, Faldo is the inevitable centre of attention on a day when even Fanny Sunesson, his caddy, top left, struggled to keep up with him. Photograph: Ian Stewart

sometimes with brutal accuracy. His own damning verdict on his play was as follows: "I didn't putt well. I didn't drive well. I didn't hit my irons well and I didn't hit my putts well. Everything went out to the right."

Faldo's 220-yard stroke on the last hole was hit with a three wood and the way it flew from the middle of the fairway, piercing the darkness of a wet morning to stop a few feet from its target, meant it was a stroke that Faldo will not forget in a hurry. Nor is the memory of it likely to dim quickly in the eyes of the bedraggled spectators who were fortunate to see it.

As shots by Faldo go, it approaches in quality and accuracy the three-wood shot with which he snatched victory in the Doral Ryder Open in the United States in March last year and the stunning two-iron on the 13th hole of the last round of the Masters, even though the pressure he was under yesterday morning was as nothing compared with those occasions.

Faldo is his own sternest judge and even he was impressed with it. "I thundered it," he said. "My maximum was a three-wood is 230 yards. This pitched 220 yards and hopped up." When shots such as this are combined with

one of his best putting rounds of the year — he holed putts varying in length from three to 30 feet — then it is easy to see why Faldo leads by one stroke from Paul Curry and Mark McNulty and two from Rocca, Robert Allenby and Ignacio Garrido.

On the 6th, there came one of those little cameos that remain in the memory long after the details of a round have faded into the mists of time. As Faldo, Ian Woosnam and Stephen Ames prepared to putt it was discovered that the flag was immovable. Woosnam walked up to it and had a go at removing it. He failed, so Faldo was called in.

With his height and leverage he ought to have been able to dislodge it. No luck. Ames, the champion at The Oxfordshire last week, took his turn. Still no success.

In such circumstances, rather as in golf itself, technique triumphs over strength, lest in removing the flag the metal cup is wrenched out of the ground or the side of the hole is dented or gouged. The three of them tried twisting the flag and turning it and so did their caddies. Faldo even gave it a kick, to no avail. It took a big heave by Woosnam, the mighty mite, before the flag was removed whereupon Faldo holed his putt of 20 feet.

SCORES FROM WENTWORTH

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated
EARLY FIRST-ROUND LEADERS: 67: N Faldo, 68: P Curry, M McNulty (Zim), 69: I Garrido (Sp), R Allenby (Aus), 70: J Sardon (Swe), E Eales, J M Carls (Spt), W Westner (SA), R Davis (Aus), S Cape, 71: D Carter, S Gumpson (Nz), T Johnston (Zim), H Clark, E Romero (Arg), D Gilford, A Cayla (Ger), J Robinson, S Struwer (Ger), S Thring (Den), J Hawkes (SA), G Orr, P Way, R Chapman, M Grunberg (Swe), S Torrance, A Collett, R Bostall.
72: T Egan (Den), M Moulard, P Fuke (Swe), J Sclanton, F Nobilo (NZ), S O'Malley (Aus), G Turner (NZ), M Lannar (Spt), F Tennaud (Fr), M A Jimenez (Sp), D Cooper, 73: T Price (Aus), B McGovern, L Peckling, J Woodman, J Sherry (SC United), R Lussier (Tampa Bay Mutiny), E Stewart (Winnipeg), R Gossan (SA), J L Gussy (Fr).

R Wilson, R Muntz (Hol), S Martin, T Levet (Fr), J Higgins, M Davis, M Ross, J Spence, D Feherty, C Montgomerie, B Langer (Ger).
74: M Farry (Fr), M Pagan, M Harwood (Aus), A Lyle, P Baker, A Bossert (Swe), J Parnell (Swe), C Mason, D Smyth, C O'Connor Jr, P Broadhurst, P Garner, M Hallberg (Swe), R Drummond, M Upton, P Spolard (Swe), 75: G Howell, J Lomas, P Walton, P-J Johansson (Swe), C Hall, M Macdonald, M McLennan, P Price, S Richardson, S Thompson, A Forsbrand (Swe), R Rafferty.
76: P Terveinen (US), R Clayton, J Townsend (US), P Moloney (Aus), A Hunter, I Fyfe, R Trosie, 77: J Coopers (Arg), O Rojahn (Nor), C Smetle, M Pinaro (Sp), S Ballesteros (Sp), 78: J Morgan, R Martin, T Spence, 79: G Coates (Fr), 80: M Clayton (Aus), 81: D Borrego (Sp).

Carson could retire at end of season

By JULIAN MUSCAT

WILLIE CARSON, a man never short of words, gave a clear indication yesterday that he will trade in his riding boots for carpet slippers at the end of the Flat racing season.

Carson has always dismissed questions about retirement, but he was in reflective mood when asked whether he might be riding in the Derby for the last time on June 8. "I would think it's highly likely this will be my last Derby," Carson, the five-time champion jockey, said. "I have been going at the top for the past 35 years, so I've had a very good run."

Carson's comments, aired on Radio 5 Live, came during a turbulent season in which he has failed to achieve his own high standards. He has won each of the five British classics at least three times, but his once-acute sense of judgment has betrayed him.

The most notable example came at Lingfield last Saturday. With a minor race at his mercy, Carson, 53, prematurely eased down on Kamari, the odds-on favourite, and was caught in the dying strides. He was banned for seven days and left the weighing room by a back door, later describing the incident as one of the worst moments in his career.

"It was a terrible mistake," he said. "I regret it, but I don't think age had anything to do with it. My pride has been absolutely devastated." Other events on that bleak day may well have prompted Carson to contemplate quitting.

Earlier, at Newbury, he could only apologise for the ride that he gave Nabhan, who forfeited a winning opportunity when Carson allowed himself to get trapped behind a wall of horses in the



Carson mistakes

London Gold Cup Stakes. He was criticised for his handling of Bint Salsabil, who was tenderly ridden when caught in the closing stages of the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket last month.

For the past seven seasons, Carson has worked as retained jockey to Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum and has hinted that, without the arrangement, he would probably have retired some time ago. Indeed, it is widely believed that the promise shown by Al-Maktoum towards the end of last season prompted Carson to ride for another year. Yet he said of the colt, beaten on both his outings before the Derby: "He has been very disappointing — but if he won the Derby it would be a great ending, a fairy-tale."

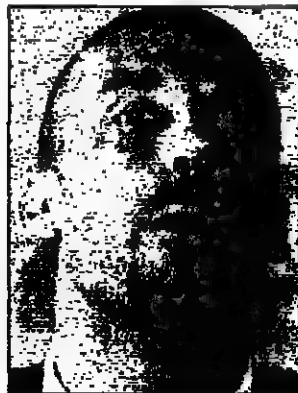
Vialli joins foreign legion

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

GIANLUCA VIALLI, the Italian forward, signed for Chelsea yesterday, two days after leading Juventus to victory against Ajax in the European Cup final. Though there was no transfer fee involved, it is believed that he will earn £3 million over three years. "My English is poor, and I will have to take courses in London, but I know the value of the pound," Vialli said.

West Ham United have also jumped aboard the post-Bosman gravy train, which now allows players to join new employers for nothing — apart from vast pay packets — when their contracts expire. Paulo Futre, the former Portugal international, is to move from AC Milan to Upton Park after agreeing a two-year deal.

Chelsea's capture of Vialli, who is 32 in July, is no surprise. They have been negotiating with Claudio Pasqualin, his agent, for weeks and finally managed to fend off the attentions of other suitors, including Rangers. It is the first signing of Ruud Gullit, Chelsea's new player-



Vialli: free transfer

manager. Colin Hutchinson, Chelsea's managing director, said: "He could have earned more money elsewhere, but the lure of Ruud and London enabled us to pull off this coup. Ruud is on holiday at the moment, but we have faxed him with the news."

Vialli made all the right noises yesterday. "Ruud is a good friend of mine, he speaks Italian," he said. "I will feel at home with him. It will be a sort of rebirth for me and I

expect to get new motivations. I gave and received a lot during four years with Juventus. I'm leaving without any grudges. It was a divorce by mutual consent."

His credentials are impressive, but he will be hoping for better fortunes than Andrea Silenzi, who became the Premiership's first import from Serie A when he joined Nottingham Forest last summer. He has started only eight games and scored two goals.

Vialli is not playing in the European championship finals in England next month because of a long-standing feud with Arrigo Sacchi, the Italy coach. Sacchi has left him out of his squad.

Still, Vialli's signing was greeted with enthusiasm by his new colleagues. Nigel Spackman, the midfield player, said: "He is one of the top strikers in the world and would fit into any team." John Spencer, the forward, said: "You can only listen and learn from such class players."

Barbary ready, page 43

Scots to keep rivals guessing

FROM KEVIN MCCARRIA
IN HARTFORD
CONNECTICUT

IT CAN be hard to tell the difference between disarray and guile. The Scotland football team that meets the United States in New Britain, Connecticut, tomorrow may not bear much resemblance to the side that will compete in the European championship finals. Only some of the distortions to the line-up are unavoidable.

Andy Goram, Billy McKinlay and Ally McCoist all have minor knocks that rule them out. Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, is, however, also propagating disinformation, since he knows that the match will be watched by representatives of the rivals to be faced in June — Holland, England and Switzerland. Accordingly, Gary McAllister, his captain, and, since his transfer this week to AS Monaco, John Collins, his most affluent player, will probably be rested.

The trip to the United States is designed to provide relaxation and the largest audience that Scotland will face was crammed into Madison Square Garden on Thursday night when the squad joined Rod Stewart on stage at his concert. There are respects, however, in which Scotland cannot avoid being in earnest.

For years, Brown has been searching for a dynamic forward to score goals and give the team impetus, but his auditions have not gone well. The latest candidate is Gordon Durie, whose resurgence with Rangers, for whom he struck a hat-trick in the Tennents Scottish Cup final last weekend, has brought him back into contention for Scotland. He will lead the attack against the United States.

Brown, however, may have the unsettling feeling that other decisions are being taken for him. Goram's absence, with a hip injury, means that he not started a match for Scotland since December 1994. He lost his status as first-choice goalkeeper when he declined to play against Greece in August of last year, claiming that he was not "mentally attuned".

It had been assumed, none-

TEAMS

SCOTLAND (probable, 3-5-2: J. Leighton (Hibernian) — C. Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), G. Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), D. Whyte (Middlesbrough) — G. Bailey (Chelsea), S. Gemmill (Nottingham Forest), S. McCall (Rangers), E. Jones (Coventry City), T. Boyd (Colt) — G. Durie (Rangers), S. Booth (Aberdeen).

UNITED STATES (probable, 4-3-3: J. Sweeney (Luton Town) — M. Balboa (Colorado Rapids), A. Lala (New England Revolution), M. Burns (New England Revolution), J. Agos (DC United) — G. Torres (Miami), T. Francis (New York/New Jersey Red Bulls), J. Sherry (DC United) — R. Lussier (Tampa Bay Mutiny), E. Stewart (Winnipeg), E. Wynalda (San Jose Clash).

theless, that he would be reinstated in time for the European championship, but, with the tournament imminent, his return might almost be disruptive. Goram should be fit to play against Colombia in Miami on Wednesday, but Scotland may feel that they should maintain continuity by keeping faith with Jim Leighton, even if he is slightly less gifted.

Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, will have opportunities once again to demonstrate his worth tomorrow. The United States, as England found when they lost here in 1993, are a respectable force in

international football and Scotland arrive just as the game here has begun a process of transformation. Despite all the scepticism at home and abroad, Major League Soccer (MLS), the country's new professional league, is taking root.

It began only in April, but crowds have climbed as high as 69,000, in Los Angeles, and the average attendance is an encouraging 28,000. MLS should also underpin the national team, improving its prospects. For the first time, Steve Sampson, the United States coach, does not have to gather his squad from outposts overseas. Indeed, as many as nine of the team tomorrow could be MLS players.

The United States have become intimidating in recent years, even beating Argentina 3-0 in the Copa America in Uruguay last year, but the impressive infrastructure now in place should make them even more effective. Scotland must ensure that their game with the United States' finest does not become an advert for the vigour of MLS.



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WORLD SUMMARY

talking about," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Charles Millon, the Defence Minister, said: "This is a sign of violent and intolerant terrorism, aimed at people who simply dedicate their lives to prayer and to others."

At Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris, extinguished seven candles lit by Christians, Muslims and Jews last month. "The candles represented hope for their lives. I wanted them to burn forever," he said.

The monks were the last Trappists remaining in Algeria.



Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger prays for the monks, killed by order of Djamel Zitouni, the GIA leader, below

PRESIDENT SAMPER of Colombia appears to have beaten off demands for his impeachment, after a parliamentary commission investigating accusations that he took drug money recommended that he be absolved (David Adams writes).

The committee argued that the evidence showed the President had no knowledge of an estimated \$6 million (£3.9 million) in contributions to his 1994 election campaign.

Kokarnag, Kashmir: The British, American and German Governments have been told by Indian authorities that four Western hostages kidnapped by the Al Faran group more than ten months ago are probably alive (Christopher Thomas writes). The last credible sighting was in December in the Himalayan foothills.

Madrid: A court here ordered the state to pay £38,700 for each of 1,200 people who have died since 1981 after consuming contaminated cooking oil. Lesser sums are to be paid for disabled survivors. One civil servant was fined £105 for approving the oil but six others were acquitted. (AFP)

Sofia: Simeon II, the Bulgarian king forced into exile when he was nine by the Communists, is due back today for the first time in 50 years. He has been invited for a three-week stay by a group of 101 intellectuals for discussions about the country's future. (AFP)

Geneva: The World Health Organisation recommended destroying the world's last stocks of the smallpox virus in 1999, giving scientists time to find any remaining stocks of the killer virus. (Reuters)

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE US Army demanded plot changes to a coming film about the Gulf War when producers asked to borrow military equipment.

The draft script of *Courage Under Fire*, starring Meg Ryan and Denzel Washington, portrayed an army cover-up of a fictitious "friendly fire" incident in the Gulf War in which an American soldier died accidentally at the hands of his own side. When the film's producers asked to hire army equipment at reduced rates, the military liaison office for Hollywood replied that it would be available only if certain lines were dropped from the script.

Parts of the film are based on the real story of Corporal Douglas Fielder, one of 35 American servicemen (and some British personnel) killed by US friendly fire in the war. The film will be released in America this summer.

Washington's character, an embattled colonel, was portrayed as something of a drinker. The army said it would rather he did not and that he should kindly mention the military rehabilitation programme for alcoholics. Also, did he have to beat someone up and quite so clearly hold a low opinion of the Pentagon?

Executives for 20th Century Fox began by negotiating with

the army, but with both sides playing "hardball" things did not go well. Army officials expressed distaste that Ryan's helicopter pilot was described as "butch", a word with Sapphic connotations. Nor did it help that a hospital for veterans was to be presented as "a living hell". The central plank of the story, the military cover-up, was a phenomenon entirely unrecognised by the army.

The producers needed 12 M1 Abrams tanks and knew that the army was the cheapest supplier. When the negotiations started to break down, the film-makers looked elsewhere and ended by hiring 12 Centurions from Australia.

Kathy Ross, a civilian at the Hollywood offices of the US Army's public affairs unit, said yesterday: "We tried to be as helpful as we could. We like to make films more accurate." She denied that there had been any pressure to clean up the film, but agreed that films about military life are vital "recruiting sergeants".

A producer on the film said that the army had tried to impose "micro-management". Its line-by-line script suggestions "went well beyond issues of concept and theme", he told the *Wall Street Journal*. The negotiations went through five scripts before the producers finally lost patience.



Ryan plays "butch" heli-pilot

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

MICHAEL HESELTINE, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday undermined Chris Patten's fundamental insistence that Hong Kong's economic success was based on the rule of law and its political freedoms.

During a stop-over in Hong Kong after a week in China, Mr Heseltine said repeatedly that Hong Kong and China have an "identity of interest", which he invariably identified as economic.

For three years Mr Patten, the Governor, has emphasised that "modest democracy", including a wholly and fairly

lected Legislative Council, underpins the continuing success and stability of Hong Kong. By contrast, Mr Hsefeline, who led 270 businessmen to China, said that Hong Kong's stability and prosperity depended on its economic connections with China.

He said he had been reassured on that point by Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, and by President Jiang Zemin whom he had met yesterday in the port city of Zhu Hai, just across the border.

Silence of a billion, page 18

A black and white title card for Disney's 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'. The title is written in a large, stylized, gothic font. Above the word 'HUNCHBACK' is the word 'THE' in a smaller font. Above the word 'NOTRE' is the word 'OF' in a smaller font. Above the word 'DAME' is the word 'DAME' in a smaller font. The title is set against a background of a dark, textured, and splattered surface. Below the title, several characters from the movie are depicted in a dynamic, action-oriented pose. On the left, a character (Frollo) is shown in a crouching position, holding a staff. In the center, a character (Quasimodo) is shown in a crouching position, holding a staff. On the right, a character (Esmeralda) is shown in a crouching position, holding a staff. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a high-contrast, grainy print.

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Managing your money for the longer term

Self-made capitalist in designer clothes proves Communists have ditched dogmatic straitjacket

'Red Banker' shows profit

WHEN Russians shudder at the thought of Communist hardliners regaining power, they imagine the revenge of elderly generals with chests of medals, grey-haired bureaucrats in ill-fitting suits and shadowy KGB secret policemen with dark glasses.

"People just jump to conclusions; we are not like that any more," said Vladimir Semago, who is living proof that the Russian Communist Party of today has certainly changed since it was driven from power five years ago.

Dressed in French designer clothes, Mr Semago looks more like an aspiring tycoon on Wall Street than a potential hero of socialist labour. Even when he reaches into his well-tailored sports jacket to pluck out his party membership book, he gives the clear impression that the document is about as far as his socialist credentials go.

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON



"There are 11 of us entrepreneurs who are also Communist deputies in the Duma," he said in his spacious Moscow office. "There would be nothing strange if this was Italy or some other country, but because it is Russia people are surprised."

The former construction engineer, 49, opened a small café during the reform era a decade ago and never looked back. Today his empire includes a bank, several restaurants, a casino and the Moscow Commercial Club, the capital's first elite gentlemen's club, copied from the

London model. Not surprisingly, the capitalist exploits of the "Red Banker", as he is nicknamed, have not gone down well with many of his fellow Communists. Aleksandr Shabanov, the Number Three in the leadership, recently questioned whether Mr Semago should be allowed to remain in the party. Viktor Anpilov, the Stalinist chief of another hardline Communist faction, made it clear this week that all banks should be privatised and bankers turned into bureaucrats or factory workers.

"Of course, there are people

who resent me, but their views are old-fashioned, and frankly Anpilov is a joke," said Mr Semago, confidently predicting that the social democrats within the party would eventually triumph. "Many of our supporters today do not want to go back to the Soviet era. They are just voting for us because they want to change the current system."

He even argued that today's Communists in Russia would actually benefit private businesses because those operating in today's market were currently forced to work with corrupt government officials and powerful "mafia" groups.

"I am not in favour of punishing honest businessmen, but I am for rooting out those people who gained their wealth illegally by stripping the state of its assets," he said, in a pointed threat to several leading figures close to the Yeltsin Government.

After the "pragmatic Communists" have restored Russia's greatness, Mr Semago believes that once again the adapted Communist ideology can be exported. "It may take decades to achieve, but the world is a small place and we share many common problems, like the environment. If we get it right in Russia, people will follow our lead."



Vladimir Semago: "We do not want to go back to the Soviet era"

Candidates let cats and dogs out of the bag

WHEN Russia's presidential candidates complain that the campaign has become too Western, they mean that they are tired of the media's relentless delving into their personal lives.

Not content with putting the candidates' spouses under the spotlight, the press is now focusing on their pets. In a country where owning a pedigree dog can be the ultimate status symbol, Gennadi Zyuganov, the humourless Communist candidate, in an effort to project a "softer" image, let it be known that the real love of his life is Vaska. The cat is a red-and-yellow tabby, the same colours as the Communist flag.

Not to be outdone, General Aleksandr Lebed, the tough former paratrooper and nationalist candidate, was also keen to prove that behind the brawn he has heart. His party revealed that his real love is Cheswick, a bouncy English sheepdog, and Kuza his cat.

As for the leading liberal candidate, Grigori Yavlinsky is a true democrat when it comes to his pets. He has a pure-bred alsatian and a stray.

Not surprisingly, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader, has an ambiguous record. While the extremist loved his horse, he was far more secretive about the death of his pet dog.

The candidate with the worst pet rating is President Yeltsin. His office refused to say what animals, if any, he kept, leading to speculation that he may be a secret animal-hater.

Jokes give Yeltsin the last laugh

WHEN a Russian reporter was discovered trying to conceal a tape recorder in a conference room used by Communist Party deputies at the Duma, the lower house of parliament, colleagues wondered why she had bothered. While Communist plotting might make interesting reading, according to opinion polls most Russians have already made up

their minds that, win or lose, President Yeltsin will still be in the Kremlin after the presidential elections.

The conventional wisdom is best summed up by the latest joke circulating in Moscow: "Have you heard the election results? The Communists got 55 per cent of the vote, and Yeltsin did even better."

The Rock's old enemy adopts a softer approach

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A SPANISH politician who once urged "an iron attitude" against Gibraltar is pressing Madrid to be more conciliatory in its dealings with the British territory.

César Braña, the man to whom Gibraltarians have traditionally attributed all frontier delays and harassment, retires today as Civil Governor

of Cádiz. On the eve of his departure, he has said that "Spain must have in mind the sentiments, thoughts and opinions of the Gibraltarian people".

In an interview with the *Gibraltar Chronicle* published today, Señor Braña calls on José María Aznar's Government to restart the "Seville process" — the formula by which Spanish, British and Gibraltarian representatives met in the Andalusian city in February and November 1995 to

discuss a range of practical issues, excluding sovereignty. Abel Matute, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is believed to have regarded the Seville process as a "sell-out" to Joe Bossano, the former Chief Minister of Gibraltar. Expressing careful satisfaction at the election of a new Government on the Rock, Señor Braña says he believes the time had come for "good neighbourliness" and "mutual confidence" between the citizens of Gibraltar

and the neighbouring Campo region in Spain. Describing Señor Matute as "hard line", Señor Braña emphasises that he has "never personally been a party to the possibility of closing the border".

Asked for his views on the future of the Rock, the outgoing Civil Governor hints at a preference for Madrid and London to distance themselves from the issue. "Progress on Gibraltar must be done at the local level," he said.

Art police line up lost treasures

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AN ART exhibition with a difference has opened in Rome — the show, mounted by the police, has half the paintings missing. The aim is to shock the public into realising how many treasures disappear from Italy's churches and museums.

The missing masterpieces are represented by copies and photographs. According to Colonel Roberto Conforti, head of the Carabinieri's anti-theft unit, 30,000 art objects are stolen in Italy every year. The main problem is that much of Italy's vast artistic heritage is kept in poorly guarded churches.

The exhibition, dubbed the "museum of ghost paintings" by Rome art critics, is being held at the Castel Sant' Angelo, near the Vatican. Perhaps the best known lost masterpiece is Caravaggio's last work, his magnificent *Nativity*, which was stolen in 1969.

Half the exhibition is proudly devoted to works which the Carabinieri have successfully tracked down and recovered. But Colonel Conforti said both the public and the church authorities needed to be more vigilant.

Albanian leader jeered by voters

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN TIRANA

ON THE muddy football pitch in the little lowland town of Marmuras, the Albanian voters are waiting for their President. With parliamentary elections due tomorrow, they have their chance to give a verdict on the last four years of Sali Berisha's Democratic Party Government.

Marmuras has some bright lights, shops and many little kiosks, all a sign of his post-Communist achievement. It also has very high unemployment and derelict housing blocks. Most people depend on money from relatives working in Italy or Greece.

President Berisha arrives in his black Mercedes with curtained windows and a heavy posse of security guards. The welcome is less than rapturous. His speech concentrates heavily on patriotism and the threat to the Albanian homeland posed by the Red Front, the opposition Socialists. Although local Democratic Party cheerleaders do their best, the speech is met with whistles and boos.

Although some opinion polls have shown him holding on to enough of his 1992 vote to win, most local observers feel that, providing the election is fair, which is open to question,

he has a lot to do to win decisively.

Many voters see the President as a divisive figure with an inherently authoritarian style of government. His fierce anti-communism was an asset in the early days of his administration, but there is a distinct sense in the campaign so far of a move towards consensus and a more moderate government.

Death sentences: An Albanian court sentenced to death three senior, ex-Communist officials on charges of crimes against humanity and political persecution while in power. The three are expected to appeal. (Reuters)

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OPINION

Darcey Bussell and the Royal Ballet wow Norway, but French diplomacy strikes back



THEATRE 1

Calamity Jane rides into the Wells, but even Gemma Craven stumbles in this laboured staging

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2

... while another classic movie, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, comes to the stage in Birmingham

BASE NOTES

Placido Domingo will take part in a fundraising gala for the Royal Opera House redevelopment

You will probably be wondering why I am dispatching this column from an excellent fish restaurant in Bergen, Norway. Colleagues tell me that the Editor, too, has taken a keen interest in this subject. Well, I will tell you the same thing as I shall tell him. Then, if my amusing little face is mysteriously erased from this page next week, you may guess the reason.

The fact is that I am reporting on a British cultural triumph. It may look like a plate of herrings to you, but appearances are deceptive. For two weeks, Bergen has made itself the centre of the arts world. It has revamped its festival as an event of ambitious international scope. As they joke in Norway: "Be there, or be Swedish." (It's probably funnier in Norwegian.)

And British performers are playing a key part. Indeed, the festival's opening performance is delivered by no less an ensemble than the Royal Ballet, and a tremendous impression it makes with Twyla Tharp's *Mr Worldly*

A fishy tale and a British triumph

Wise. Not everything goes according to plan, perhaps: at one point the divine Darcey Bussell collides gracefully with the scenery (daring, it was definitely the scenery's fault). At the end, however, King Harald himself leads his subjects in a standing ovation for the British dancers.

For some reason, probably a misunderstanding, I am seated for these opening events in the midst of Norway's entire diplomatic community. Wonderful entertainment! The British Ambassador smiles quietly and basks in his compatriots' glory. The French Ambassador, however, realises that he has work to do if he is to regain the cultural initiative. "I have been researching the origin of the Norwegian flag," he tells me. "It seems probable that the colours red, white and blue were borrowed by the Norwegians from

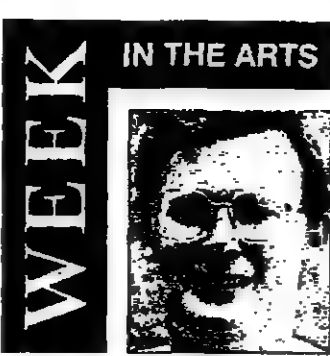
the French Tricolour to convey the spirit of liberty."

I ponder this historical bombshell. Surely the red in the Norwegian flag is deeper, more like maroon? But even weightier conundrums lie ahead. The German chargé d'affaires approaches, wearing a puzzled frown. "The title of this ballet," he says. "How would you translate *Mr Worldly* Wise, please?"

"Into German?" I croak, trying to conceal my rising panic.

"No," he replies. "Into English."

Later the British Ambassador hosts a splendid lunch to fête the Royal Ballet. I find myself sitting next to a young Norwegian gloriously bedecked in a blazer embroidered with gold brocade. Suspecting that he might be the Bergen town bandmaster, I ask him what his day job is.



RICHARD MORRISON

"I am Mick Jagger's physiotherapist," he replies.

Is this more Norwegian humour? Should I riposte with "... and I am Keith Richards's personal chaplain"? But no. It turns out

that my blazered friend is exactly what he claims. On his shoulders falls the onerous responsibility of easing the aches, pains and pelvic stress fractures of the world's longest-running rock legend.

He rose only gradually to this pre-eminent position in the world of physiotherapy. For a while after studying in Britain, he tells me, he administered the magic sponge on the hacked shins of footballers, first at Dundee United and then at Crystal Palace. After that he was engaged to nurture the rather more comely physiques of the Royal Ballet. Then his skills were spotted by Jagger.

So how does Jagger drag those 53-year-old limbs together for yet another show? "He's a highly intelligent man," the physio says. "He will do half an hour of serious warm-up exercises before each performance, just like any athlete."

The Stones have postponed the latest leg of their tour, so the physio has been temporarily laid off. "Still," he muses cheerfully, "I'm off to the Canaries next week to look after some windsurfers."

I decide that I want to be a physiotherapist. Then I start to imagine what gruesome daily tasks might be required to revive the raddled Jagger torso, and decide to stick with journalism.

Meanwhile, one topic dominates conversation in Norway's musical community, and it is a sad one: the heart attack that has struck down Marius Jansons, the magnificent Latvian conductor who has raised the Oslo Philharmonic to world-class standard and was recently appointed as Lorin Maazel's successor in Pittsburgh.

It happened in dramatic circum-

stances. Jansons was conducting what was, by all accounts, a highly-charged performance of *La Bohème* in Oslo, and had reached the final death scene when he collapsed. He will be out of action for many weeks, though the Oslo Philharmonic still hopes that he will lead its visits to the Proms and Edinburgh Festival in August.

"He worked far too much," a Norwegian impresario says. "It was bound to happen." Perhaps. But Jansons's generous way of making music — 200 per cent commitment all the time — must have been equally sapping.

By coincidence I have just finished reading the late Peter Heyworth's masterly account of Klemperer's life (now published in its full, two-volume glory). One does not wish ill-health on anybody. But sometimes, as with Klemperer, a great musician produces something extraordinary after serious illness. So too, I hope, with Jansons. The world has too few conductors of his calibre and, at 53, he has much more to say.

Even cowgirls get the boos

THEATRE
Calamity Jane
Sadler's Wells

Once upon a time (in 1953) this was a film, and Doris Day went whip crack, and away went the stage from Sioux City to Deadwood. Now the film has become a theatre show and it is Gemma Craven's turn to lie on top of the stagecoach and take pot shots at Indians. Two come jerkily behind her, crouched on mechanical steeds, jostling for pole position like the Derby runners in the Drury Lane melodramas of 100 years ago. But no matter how furiously the driver belabours his horse, the creature never moves, not even to jerk its mechanical head.

I thought this pretty pathetic in a big-scale touring show. But when the horses came back again, and again, and eventually (at the end) when Jane's gallops backwards, I understood that these ridiculous animals were a joke.

Jane's log cabin that rotates in the usual manner, so that having seen the outside we will see the inside, provides another joke when she and her various guests are disconcerted by a cabin that thinks it is a roundabout. This is a Post-Modernist sort of joke but it is the only thing in the show that gets anywhere near modernity.

Of course several of the songs are enjoyably old-fashioned and justifiably became



Whip crack away: Gemma Craven and the cast of *Calamity Jane* in full cry. The songs are the best part of the show

standards before any of the youthful chorus were born: *Windy City*, *Secret Love*, though Craven delivers it here with an odd huskiness, and the wistful *Black Hills of Dakota*. Paul Francis Webster's lyrics for this are embarrassingly banal — though elsewhere he rhymes "Philadelphia" with "I'll never ring a bell fyer" — but Sammy Fain's melody is the essence of dreamy nostalgia, and Paul Kerryson's production does not let us forget it. First the locals sway from side to side in the moonlight, then the melo-

dy comes back as a waltz and we have more than enough ballroom dancing to go with it.

The show has enjoyed a successful tour, and doubtless will bring comfort to many fans during its three-week stay at the Wells, but apart from the songs and those jokes with the horses and the spinning cabin, it is not a great evening.

Wild Bill Hickok (Stephen McGann) is not much of a role. Grace Kinross has a chance to show her legs as Katie Brown, the dresser to a Chicago star who turns in seconds from a shy incompe-

tent to a full-throated entertainer.

And then there is Craven, so good in *South Pacific* but rather unappealing in this argumentative and tomboyish role. The assumptions of the piece are also politically incorrect to a ludicrous degree with the blather about the daft way women think. Nothing about how piercingly they can sing when gathered into a chorus to go squawk, squeak, squeak, whoop and, of course, whip crack.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Playing fast and Loos

ANTHONY Clark's stage revival of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* is not the screenplay with the big numbers made in 1953. He has gone back to the 1920s play, Anita Loos's own dramatisation of her original monthly serial for *Harper's*

Bazaar. Some of the basic ingredients here are the same as in the film: two gals from Little Rock; a cruise liner to Paris; leering codgers; wives demanding the return of their tiaras. However, Loos's theatrical protagonists are surpris-

ingly different from their celluloid reincarnations.

This means actress Lucy Akhurst, thankfully, does not have to match Marilyn Monroe every inch of the way. Akhurst's Lorelei, for starters, is a flapper and receives praise for her flat chest. Less fortunately, she also lacks defining characteristics. She neither acts laughably dumb nor pumps out pure sex appeal. Meanwhile the brassy brunette Dorothy seems more fed up than sassy and sparky.

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes
Birmingham Rep

not helped by Victoria Scarborough's slack comic timing. Because the central performances are so watery, the production has a hole in the middle. Still, the supporting cast animate cameo roles with real brio. James Dreyfus steals the show with his preposterous nymphomaniacal parlour maid and his poisonous drag spinner, mealy-mouthed, mincing stiffly and taking hugely undignified tumbles.

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■ DESIGN

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■ DESIGN

... from the remarkable innovations of his interior design and furniture ...

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ DESIGN

... to the extraordinarily beautiful paintings that he worked on late in life



■ ON MONDAY

Powerless in Battersea: what is the future for one of London's most famous landmarks?

GALLERIES: The city Charles Rennie Mackintosh never built is impressively recreated. Plus a look at his 'latest' work

At last, Glasgow belongs to him

The attitude of Glasgow to one of its more distinguished sons, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, changed radically in the mid-1970s. Up to then, although his architectural masterpiece, the Glasgow School of Art, was accepted with tolerant affection, Mackintosh was regarded largely as a man with an unfortunate knack of building right in the way of planned ring-roads and flyovers.

Then, 20 years ago, that changed. A chair by Mackintosh came up in a London auction and was sold for the unheard-of sum of £9,000. Today it does not sound very much: two relatively ordinary, careworn chairs in the Fine Art Society's newly opened Spring '96 show are priced at £40,000 each. But back in those days £9,000 proved what had formerly been in doubt: that whatever might be thought of Mackintosh's aesthetic virtues, the products of his fertile talent were worth serious money. Overnight, he became a national treasure.

The Willow Rooms, the only one of Mackintosh's famous tearooms to survive, was re-constituted in 1980. Mackintosh's own house was reconstructed on the university campus in 1981. The College of Art, now equipped with its own Mackintosh gift shop, is besieged with visitors.

The extent of current Mackintosh frenzy can be gauged by the huge new show *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*, which is due to travel from the McLellan Galleries to the Metropolitan in New York, the Art Institute of Chicago and Los Angeles County Museum. The show does not even, as is usual these days, coincide with any obvious anniversary, since Mackintosh was born in 1868 and died in 1928. But there is no doubt that the time is ripe for a major re-evaluation, and this is it.

Every now and then the presentation perhaps gets a little too gimmicky, as with the columns equipped with eye and nose holes at the top, to which one bends in order to observe stereoscopic colour pictures of the School of Art, or the corner structures which purport to tell us about "the real Mackintosh" through long inscriptions reflected in mirrors. But, by and large, the show does its best to stand in for what is missing [the buildings themselves] with exhaustive documentation of Mackintosh's own exquisite original drawings, early and new photographs, and some outstanding models, works of art in their own right.

Also, the most imagination-grabbing section of the whole exhibition, the Ladies Lunccheon Room from the Ingram Street tearooms, stored in



One of the famous Mackintosh tearooms — that in Ingram Street — reconstructed at the McLellan Galleries

boxes for the past 20 years, is reconstructed in its entirety.

Mackintosh believed, and persuaded many of his clients to believe, in unity of effect, so that he was called upon to design furniture, fixtures and fittings, and many such items are shown to advantage. The chairs in particular have become so popular an image, and so widely reproduced, that it is sometimes difficult to strip away preconceptions and look clearly at the things themselves. One does sometimes wonder whether they would actually be very comfortable to sit on, but there is no gainsaying their effect as instantly recognisable sculptural objects.

While much of the furniture does conform to the stereotypical

view of Mackintosh's own vertically unchallenged, largely rectilinear brand of Art Nouveau, it is good also to be reminded of his sadly short-lived later phase when, towards the end of the First World War, he found a new patron in the Northampton manufacturer W.J. Bassett-Lowke and evolved a new, jazzy, strongly coloured style which, alas, he was never able to develop further. (Incidentally, the sudden prominence of vivid yellows in these decorative schemes is apparently due to the fact that Bassett-Lowke was colour-blind, and yellow was the only colour he could clearly distinguish.)

The reason that the Bassett-Lowke commissions had no progeny was that Mackintosh

had fallen on hard times. By 1914 he was so desperate for work that he resorted in London, where he was little known and out of tune with current taste. There he did any work that came to hand, and a roomful of textile designs testifies he was still far in advance of his potential clientele.

In 1923 he moved to the South of France and concentrated entirely on watercolours, mostly landscapes crisply delineated in his own parallel to Cubist segmentation. These are extraordinarily beautiful and expressive, and demonstrate that his creativity was not at all diminished in his last, sad years.

The main thing that could be urged against the show is that it does not tell us enough

about Mackintosh's context. How, precisely, did his evolution relate to that of kindred figures such as Frank Lloyd Wright and the Viennese school of Hoffmann and Loos? It would be good to learn more specifically about his fruitful partnership with his wife, Margaret Macdonald, and with her sister and brother-in-law Frances and Herbert MacNair.

But these are small cavils. Whatever its former shortcomings, Glasgow has finally done Mackintosh proud.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Charles Rennie Mackintosh is at the McLellan Galleries, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (0141-331 8554) until Sept 30

New, original Mackintosh

In December 1900, a German interior design magazine launched a competition to design a House for an Art Lover. Charles Rennie Mackintosh submitted an entry in 1901, but was initially disqualified. He re-submitted a portfolio of designs and they were awarded a special purchase prize. The designs were published, and enhanced Mackintosh's growing international reputation.

In January 1988 Graham Roxburgh, a consulting engineer, and his stepdaughter Melanie Lang, hatched an idea to build the House for an Art Lover. On a lunchtime jog through Bellahouston Park in Glasgow, Roxburgh found the perfect site, with a walled garden lying next to it. He asked Andrew MacMillan, head of the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, to prepare the plans. Missing details had to be added, using Glasgow School of Art and the Queen's Cross Church as examples. The City of Glasgow, the former Strathclyde Regional Council and the former Scottish Development Agency offered funding.

By 1990, however, although the facade was complete, the funds had dried up, stopping completion of the interior. In 1992 the Art Lover's House Trust was set up to raise funds, and in the end £3 million was spent on the construction of the building. This August it will be opened to the public.

The Music Room, for example, incorporates all the details shown in the original 1901 designs: it is elegant, lit by tall windows on one side, and with elongated female figures stencilled in the recesses. The high-backed chairs and coloured lamps on slender wires add to the simplicity and freshness of the room. The gesso panels, repousse metal panels, stencil-

ling, lighting and carpet design, were all worked on by local specialist Scottish craftsmen and women. If this house had actually been built in the early 1900s, it would surely have made Mackintosh's name.

At Strathnairn, seven miles from Inverness, a set of Mackintosh drawings was turned into an Artist's Cottage and Studio for Peter and Maxine Tovell in 1991/92. The architect Robert Hamilton Macintyre and the contractor Paul Carter worked to create the Tovells' dream house. What is unique about the Artist's Cottage is that they live in it with their family, mixing Mackintosh detail with their own belongings. It has an intimate yet stark feel about it, with all the Mackintosh details — leaded glass, high-backed chairs and that Japanese simplicity mixed with Scottish sobriety.

As Mackintosh had designed the cottage to be serviced by chambermaids, the ratio of hearths to lavatories had to be changed to meet 1990s standards, and a staircase was put in to reach the roof terrace.

Last year the Tovells also built two identical cottages next door. These were originally designed to be the gatehouses for Auchinboothie Mains, outside Glasgow, but were never built.

The original plans for the cottage were made in 1900, the year of Mackintosh's marriage to Margaret Macdonald. It is said to think that Mackintosh probably planned the cottage to be their home, but never had the wealth to proceed.

HEATHER WADDELL

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society (0141-946 6600), is organising short-break weekend tours of Mackintosh buildings this summer

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DOWN IT ON VIDEO

Silence of a billion consciences

Jonathan Mirsky on why the Chinese cannot face their past

China's tradition prizes study; in the People's Republic actual learning is quite another thing. This explains why the 30th anniversary of the Cultural Revolution has just come and gone silently — except in millions of hearts and minds.

What Chairman Mao set going in 1966 was described by the party in 1981 as modern China's worst-ever catastrophe. But silence is more than golden in China: it is literally a life-and-death matter. Twenty-one years ago, to raise a ghostly example, the party executed Zhang Zhiqin who had raised some intolerable questions. Before she was shot, a hole was cut in her windpipe so that she could not speak, even to her executioners.

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese died in what is officially called the "disastrous decade" of 1966-76, including many top members of the leadership who became targets of Mao's passion for revenge. Many millions of ordinary people were marked, physically or emotionally, for life. There are no monuments to Zhang Zhiqin or to other victims. Only silence.

Like the Holocaust, the Cultural Revolution demands understanding. Yet research into the catastrophe is not permitted and school and university texts stink past the subject. In 1981, when Deng Xiaoping was overseeing the party's judgment on the Cultural Revolution, he ensured that draft references to Mao's *zixing* (crimes) eventually emerged as mere *cunwu* (mistakes), even if serious, and that the party itself, despite its admitted complicity with Mao, was congratulated for correcting its own mistakes.

But genuine consideration of that period, in which bloodthirsty deeds shook every aspect of Chinese society, would show that the party's habit of violence against internal critics, the mass campaigns which claimed millions of victims, and the creation and branding of "class enemies" began in the 1930s.

None of China's Communist heroes would emerge unscathed from a searching analysis. Mr Deng, a party member since 1924, helped to create a system within which "smashing" and "eliminating" enemies, usually the party's internal critics, showed true grit. Hundreds were executed as "Trotzkists" during the party's early years. In the late 1950s, at Mao's command, the party Secretary-General Deng supervised — and has always justified — the persecution of hundreds of thousands of "Rightists". In 1966, Mr Deng participated in the persecution of senior colleagues until he himself fell.

Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister, who died in 1975 and whom many Chinese regard as a near-saint, was the author of some of the Cultural Revolution's most polemical tracts and joined in condemning old comrades. Li Peng, his adopted son and now Premier, ascended — "helicoptered" — from post to powerful post.

No Gestapo or KGB was required to get large numbers of Chinese, including school-children, to torment, torture

and kill each other. Within a few years of the Maoist victory in 1949 and beginning with the extermination of landlords and other "class enemies", killing became a social good. In such conditions, silence was and remains safety. Jung Chang, the author of *Wild Swans*, who in 1966 as a child of 14 "learned to suppress my reason", describes how her father, a survivor of an early party purge of "Trotzkists" which took many lives, placed his hand over her mother's mouth during an agonising miscarriage and warned her: "Don't cry out loud. If people hear you, you will be criticised."

An elderly ex-party member told me this week that for 30 years, he and his wife never exchanged a single word or even a raised eyebrow about matters such as the sudden arrest of a friend or colleague. "No one could trust anyone," he said. "After all, either one of us could have betrayed the other."

A blood-soaked trail runs from today's leaders, who now hold every important dissident under lock and key and are directing new waves of repression in Tibet and against the Muslims of Sinkiang, through Mr Deng who ordered the

A hole was cut in her windpipe so that she could not speak

finger up: *Shangmian* — The Above.

The Above, Liu Binyan, China's best investigative journalist, a party member since the 1940s and twice expelled, now in exile in the US, points out that the "Gang of the Old", which includes the invisible but still powerful Mr Deng, "belong to a species rare in the 20th century".

They have held power since the guerrilla period more than 60 years ago, he observes, with jurisdiction over land and people and defended by their own army. "Even Lenin and Stalin did not know the taste of having true power for so long a time."

Around such men there must be no learning, only silence. Thus Mr Liu's taboo questions for the Gang of the Old: "Did you do anything to prevent Mao from making wrong decisions? Are you in part responsible for the Cultural Revolution?"

Enforcing silence cannot work forever. A cauldron of violence heaves just below China's surface, where there are potential armies of men and women experienced in organised uprising and rebellion. Millions were involved in Red Guard faction-fighting during the Cultural Revolution, when each side claimed to represent the Maoist cause. All that vanished, leaving disillusionment but also a knowledge of weapons.

Further expertise in defying authority was acquired all over China during May and June, 1989 — another anniversary which cannot be marked. I recall a poster in Tiananmen: "One million criminals in the party; one million choppers in the hands of the people."

The honour comes from the American Foreign Service Association, a diplomats' trade union. The AFSA clearly sympathises with the vein-bursting brought on at our own Foreign Office when Adams did finally receive his visa — and a hero's welcome from his Irish American clique to boot.

The citation praises the "integrity", "courage" and "constructive dissent" of Treacy and Callahan, who stood by their rulebook under intense political pressure. Mrs Smith, whose sympathies are strongly pro-republican, drew strength from her family's intimacy with Bill Clinton. The President is prone to coming out in shamrocks

Peter Jones aims a custard pie at practitioners of cultural studies and their pretentious gibberish

An American academic, the physicist Alan Sokal of New York University, has finally called the bluff of the jargon-ridden world of "cultural studies". Tiring of their nonsense, he stitched together an article from the silliest quotations he could find, entitled it "Transgressing the Boundaries: Towards a Transformative Hermeneutics of Quantum Gravity", and submitted it for publication. The editors of the academic journal *Social Text* duly obliged.

Before we mock, however, let us be clear what we are talking about. Every discipline has its specialist vocabulary. We need terms such as "chromosome" and "dactylo-epitrite". They are shorthand for complex phenomena. Jargon, however, is shorthand for simple phenomena. Its purpose is to obscure — and obscurity seems to be the particular vice of the humanities and social sciences.

Those mainly responsible are 20th-century French linguistic philosophers. They argued that language could never reflect or describe external reality, only create it. Reality was therefore personal to the creator, ie, the speaker (and especially, for some reason, the writer). It could not be shared by anyone else.

Academics who swallowed this

obvious nonsense were therefore obliged to jettison the idea that they were looking for truth. Their job now was to reveal that there was no such thing as truth. But a new approach required a new vocabulary. Since language was regarded as slippery and indeterminate, that vocabulary had to be slippery and indeterminate too. It had to reject the very idea of clarity, let alone reason, logic or evidence. These, after all, demonstrated that things were or were not the case — anathema to the new way of thinking.

This explains how Sokal's article was accepted. It spoke the lingo. That was all that counted. Evaluating the argument was of no interest.

Once you know the jargon, however, it is easy to compose in it — and the joy of it is, what you are trying to say does not matter. Indeed, quite the reverse. It helps if you have nothing

to say. Then you can expend all your effort on saying it.

Here, then, is the *Times* instant, self-adjusting guide to Getting Academic Articles Guaranteed Automatic Acceptance (GAA-GAA for short). These are the key words:

Nouns: discourse, negotiation, engagement, contestation, reading, positioning, appropriation, process, indeterminacy, dialogue, closure, boundaries, terrain, parameters, complexity, disjunction, articulation, negotiation, voice, space, ambiguity, paradox, mode, interrogation, utterance, sign, symbol, signifier.

Verbs: confront, encode, contest, challenge, essentialise, transgress, articulate, function, instantiate, locate, enact, occlude, constitute, inscribe.

Adjectives (and their associated adverbs): allusive, antagonistic, dialectic, enigmatic, ironic, reflexive,

hermeneutic, shifting, complex, discursive, ambiguous, elusive, problematic.

Note: for added scholarly piquancy, add "self-", "multi-", "trans-" or "re-" to any of these at random. "Self-reflexive", however that differs from "reflexive", is especially popular.

Now: pick any of the above words in an order which will ensure a grammatical utterance, and add prepositions and conjunctions to taste.

Then select a subject (Shakespeare, let us say, or Sophocles, or Kevin Keegan or — well, anyone or anything, really). Insert subject in appropriate spot. Bingo.

The elusive indeterminacy of Shakespeare's ambiguous and problematic self-positioning instantiates while it occludes the enigmatic renegotiation of multi-hegemonic self-interrogation within the shifting

parameters of its own trans-discursive space. "Terrific stuff! You think I made it up? Then try this, on post-colonial literature."

The disjunctive present of utterance allows the articulation of subaltern agency to emerge as relocation and reinscription. In the seizure of the sign, there is neither dialectical sublation nor the empty signifier: there is a contestation of given symbols of authority that shifts the terrain of antagonism. This is hybridity as a contesting, antagonistic agency functioning in the time lag of sign/symbol.

What can one do about all this? The Frenchman Noel Godin (alias Georges le Glopier) has one useful approach. *Entarteur extraordinaire*, he throws custard pies at practitioners. He has hit the philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy five times.

My colleague David West makes a more modest proposal — the formation of a Whistle Club. Members carry an Acme "Thunderer" and let it rip on hearing more than three of the forbidden words in any sentence.

It is academics who have fallen for this drive. It is academics who must root it out.

The author helps to run Friends of Classics and lectures in Classics at Newcastle University.

Academic jargon: how to publish it

The minister and the judge

Lord Chief Justice Taylor challenges Michael Howard on sentencing — but who has justice on his side?

The matter is so great we hardly know where to begin. Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice of England, sick but of towering authority, lays a charge against Michael Howard, Home Secretary and pretender to his party's crown. The charge is of plotting to subvert British justice. To each, the other is an anathema. Both claim that public order is at stake. Both cannot be right. Who is guilty?

Alexandre Dumas offered clear advice in such investigations. He said "cherchons la femme" — to the delight of French detectives ever since. Watergate's Deep Throat suggested a different tack. "Follow the money," he told his sleuths. But I see neither women nor money in this case. It is all rather dry. So I call in my Third Law of Human

Simon Jenkins

Dynamics. This states that "after sex and cash, nothing so rouses a man to unreason as an attack on his profession". The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, has been outraged by the Government's White Paper on sentencing. This fixes terms of imprisonment for certain repeat offences, thus curtailing judges' freedom, and brings other offences under the Home Secretary's jurisdiction, doing likewise. The result, his lordship told the House of Lords on Thursday, was nothing short of a "denial of justice". Sentencing was a craft not a computation, a rite to which only judges were privy. Each criminal needed to be judged on his merits and not be left vulnerable to some crude tariff or, worse, to passing political machismo.

I noted a ghost rising over Parliament as Lord Taylor spoke. It was of his predecessor Lord Lane, who waged an equally ferocious campaign against the Cabinet in 1989 for diluting — he would say polluting — the Bar by granting solicitors rights of audience in court. The proposal, he said, was "one of the most sinister documents ever to emanate from government".

A previous Lord Chancellor, Lord Havers, reacted likewise. He declared on television that, for the first time, a party of which he had been a member was doing something so immoral that he had to speak out. So perhaps Lord Taylor is just fighting another barristers' turf war. Was he on Thursday singing the same tune as Lord Lane, to different words?

Now let us apply the Third Law to

Mr Howard. His profession is that of politician. Politicians in this Government are control freaks. Each day they enter their offices and ask their officials to give them new powers and a photo-opportunity to match. Mr Howard is a Home Office legend in this respect. In curbing police authorities, supervising the Prison Service and expanding his right to fix sentences, Mr Howard is the arch-advocate of the doctrine that big government knows best.

His political agenda at present is to be seen as tough on crime. Why let judges get any credit for this when the constitution allows a politician to do so? Not only does Mr Howard want to fix statutory minimums for repeat burglaries, he is proposing "automatic life" for repeat violent and sexual offenders. We all know life does not mean life. It merely refers to a decision on a criminal's term of imprisonment from a judge to the Home Office. This is a straight shift of power away from the judiciary, the Parole Board and prison governors to Home Office ministers and officials. Mr Howard says that "Parliament will decide", but nobody is fooled by that. Parliament is a fig-leaf. Parliament means the Home Secretary.

So there are our antagonists. "High-stomach'd are they both and full of ire." We have stripped their dispute to base interests. We must apply the test of reason. On principle, it is hard for a democrat to disagree with Mr Howard. The public is worried at the waywardness of some much-publicised court decisions. It is shocked when a dangerous criminal is let out and reoffends. A politician must hear that worry. It is not necessarily capitulating to mob rule to seek tougher or more consistent sentences.

But Lord Taylor does not quarrel with this. What he does dispute is that the proposed changes will protect the public. Quite the reverse, he feels they are a menace.

Automatic life for repeat serious crimes, says Lord Taylor, and an automatic three years for repeat burglars is insane. All evidence (notably from America) indicates that in these cases guilty pleas will plummet, possibly from 80 per cent to 20 per cent. This will clog the courts and lead to hundreds of serious criminals going free, either for lack of prosecution evidence or because juries will believe false not-guilty pleas.



The Home Secretary and the retiring Lord Chief Justice: the executive versus the judiciary

Just five years ago, a Home Office White Paper agreed. It stated categorically: "A system of minimum or mandatory sentences for certain offences... would result in more acquittals by juries with more guilty men and women going free unjustly as a result." The Home Office is standing on its head.

Now there is hard evidence that recidivists have been treated leniently, the central argument for instituting this change. The White Paper figures claiming leniency appear to have been carefully taken from a period when judges were specifically banned from considering previous offences in fixing sentences. Mr Howard himself sat in the Cabinet that issued this order, in the ill-fated 1991 Criminal Justice Act. He presumably agreed then that judges should not consider previous convictions in fixing jail terms. It was declared to be a more certain deterrent than punishment should fit the crime, not the criminal. Again the Home Office is standing on its head.

As Lord Taylor implies, ministers are now so frantic to appear to be doing something that any old argument will do to validate an increase in power. Despite his detractors, I do not believe Mr Howard loathes judges, probation officers, prison governors or even criminologists. He is, rather, suffering from a bad attack of "ministerialitis" — a fierce faith in the omniscience of politicians and officials to do other people's jobs better than they can. Mr Howard has the same nationalising zeal as a Morrison or a Bevan in 1945. He can summon the justice system and tell it to meet public concern along lines agreed between them all. He truly believes, against all recent history, that Whitehall officials can devise a sentencing regime better than any panel of judges.

This is the nub. A Home Secretary need fear no supreme court, except the European Court of Justice (before which Mr Howard must qualify as a serial offender). Since there is no separation of powers in Britain, democrats must search high and low for ways of bringing executive excess

to account. In most civilised countries, executive justice is neither reliable nor respectable. As we have seen with mandatory sentencing and unit fines, it fluctuates wildly with the fortunes and personalities of politicians. The recent Home Office handling of the Bulger and Hindley cases was blatantly political. Such justice is worthy of a banana republic.

Given the ineffectiveness of Parliament, accountability falls to the media (dare I say it) and the courts. Until his sad retirement, the judiciary has been present in the robust person of Lord Chief Justice Taylor. On Thursday he may have been singing his profession's tune. But the time will do for the purpose. The Home Secretary wants to set himself up as a judge above judges. He can do this constitutionally, as he can do almost anything he likes. But if the constitution cannot stop him, argument must try. On my reading, he has not been convincing that the Government's extraordinary about-turn on sentencing will reduce crime. Lord Taylor has convinced me that it will make crime worse.

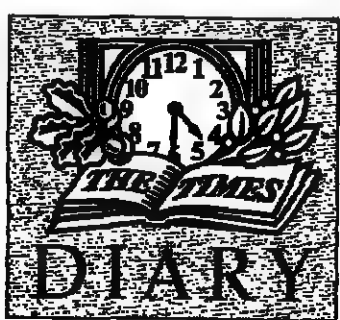
Dublin dissent

TWO Dublin-based American diplomats who resisted pressure from their Ambassador, Jean Kennedy Smith, sister of JFK, to issue a visa to Gerry Adams, are to be honoured. In 1994 Mrs Smith, an aggressive sort and inheritor of the Kennedy shovel-jaw, argued for the Sinn Féin leader to be given a visa

to travel to America. John Treacy, then public affairs officer, and James Callahan, then consul general, stood up to her. They insisted that Adams should receive no special treatment and pressed on her the damage this would do to Anglo-American relations. For this, they were excluded from embassy parties and received poor evaluations from their boss.

The honour comes from the American Foreign Service Association, a diplomats' trade union. The AFSA clearly sympathises with the vein-bursting brought on at our own Foreign Office when Adams did finally receive his visa — and a hero's welcome from his Irish American clique to boot.

The citation praises the "integrity", "courage" and "constructive dissent" of Treacy and Callahan, who stood by their rulebook under intense political pressure. Mrs Smith, whose sympathies are strongly pro-republican, drew strength from her family's intimacy with Bill Clinton. The President is prone to coming out in shamrocks



adaptation of Nick Hornby's book *Fever Pitch*. He is helping to fund the film, which will star Colin Firth as a besotted Arsenal fan. "I prefer to call my role a cameo rather than minor," he says. "I am already working on my screen presence."

Brontë's back

SOLD: the publishing rights to *Sarah Miles*, the novel being attributed to Charlotte Brontë. Giles Gordon, the silky literary agent from Curtis Brown, has flogged off the world literary rights to the book to Harry Evans, the head of Random House. "A substantial sum" was all he would say of the money involved. This may prove ominous for Magnus Linklater, journalist and client of Gordon. Earlier this week, he wrote in this newspaper of his doubts about the novel's authorship, vowing to eat his column "newsprint and all" if proved wrong.

Woy oh Woy

THIS evening sees the inaugural dinner of the Roy Jenkins Appreciation Society. Founded and presid-

ed over by Hywel Williams, the Q to John Redwood's Bond, the society offers a claret-fuelled forum for exchanges of Jenkins stories. My report earlier this week of Jenkins's womanising and his affair with the stunning Princess Lee Radziwill, sister of Jackie Onassis, during the 1960s will only have burnished his reputation. A late but enthusiastic recruit to the society is Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. "He has told me that he would be very



"Now just leave me until the holiday weekend is over"

pleased to write an essay in the *Jenkinsian* style," says Williams. "Even better, he promises to read it aloud in his best Jenkinsian manner."

● CONSERVATIVE whips had reason to worry the other night as Alastair Campbell, Tory Blair's door-slaming press spokesman, went into a huddle with Antony Bevis of *The Observer*. Drinking in *Annie's Bar* in the Commons, they were listening closely to the third member of the group, Tristan Garel-Jones, fierce Tory loyalist and MP for Watford. The last time Campbell and Bevis pow-wow'd like this was just before last year's Conservative conference. Then, the Tory in their group was Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford, whose defection to Labour was reported in *The Observer* a few days later.

Hot dog

CLOUDS of flea powder and the dull tinkle of dog chains have been heard across the West End recently as the canine press delivers its verdict on Sylvia, a comedy in which Zoë Wanamaker plays a stray dog in Manhattan. *Pet Dogs*. Dogs



Good dog: Zoë Wanamaker

Monthly and *All About Dogs* made up part of the quorum at this week's first night. Though some complained the play was "too American", Wanamaker was just Bonio. "She was very good," says Denise Lessman from *Dogs Today*. "When she came back from the hairdresser all fluffy and cute, she was just like my dog when he comes back from the hairdresser and prances around. If you are a dog fancier, see it fast."

P.H.S



JUDGING JUDGES

Bingham and Woolf should be welcomed, but act warily

In any democracy there will always be a measure of tension between the judiciary and the executive. But the development of the current disagreement between judges and ministers on sentencing policy has allowed a particularly deep fissure to open up. Against that background the new Lord Chief Justice, Sir Thomas Bingham, and his successor as Master of Rolls, Lord Woolf, face a delicate task.

Both are men of the highest ability and integrity, worthy successors to the retiring Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth, whose character and wisdom throughout his long career have commanded admiration. Both are also, like Lord Taylor, liberal-minded lawyers. With Tory and Labour politicians reflecting a widespread, and considered, conservative public mood on justice, there may be further friction ahead.

In both criminal and civil law there will be areas of potential contention. The Home Secretary's proposals to introduce mandatory minimum sentences for domestic burglars and mandatory life sentences for persistent violent and sexual offenders address widespread public concern about crime. But they faced a fusillade of criticism from senior judges, most notably from Lord Taylor, who led the assault in the House of Lords this week.

Sir Thomas has been careful not to praise, or damn, the Home Secretary's proposals but he has covered a ministerial flank. He has spoken up in favour of Mr Howard's constitutional right to bring his proposals forward, commenting: "As Parliament can prescribe a maximum penalty without infringing the constitutional independence of the judges so it can prescribe a minimum." By his restrained intervention, avoiding provocative statements such as those of Lord Justice Rose — who argued that the changes would "increase the murder rate" — Sir Thomas has shown an appropriate sensitivity for a new Lord Chief Justice.

Although he has been cautious on sentencing, supportive of the Attorney-General after the Scott report and enthusiastic in support of Lord Mackay of Clashfern's

attempts to rid the Bar of its restrictive practices, Sir Thomas is no poodle of politicians. An advocate of a Bill of Rights and critic of the capacity of common law to protect the individual, he has argued that those who see Parliament as "a reliable guardian of human rights" are "guilty of wishful thinking". Sir Thomas has also hinted that if Parliament will not protect privacy then judges will step into the breach.

Lord Woolf, the new Master of the Rolls, is, if anything, even more inclined to see power pass to judges than Sir Thomas. For the past two years he has been engaged in a review of the civil justice system over which he will now preside. Understandably anxious to make access to justice easier, Lord Woolf has argued for judges to be proactive "case managers". He has taken political positions. In the past he has suggested careless car-owners might be fined for encouraging theft and criticised the Government's prison policy as "short-sighted and irresponsible". Any future government may expect Lord Woolf to be a judicial activist, energetic in his use of the law to check the executive and extend "rights".

The arguments advanced by Sir Thomas and Lord Woolf enjoy wide support among senior colleagues on the Bench and are increasingly rarely articulated in the Commons. Given the growth in power and scope of the executive throughout the century, and given the increasing weight of legislation, much of it conceived in haste, it is understandable — and in some cases desirable — that judges should seek to assert themselves. But there are dangers.

It is to the credit of a Conservative Government that two men of such liberal temper should be appointed to the two most senior judicial posts. Yet if judges themselves choose to become more political, then they may undermine the foundation of their own independence. Parliamentary sovereignty is the basis of Britain's pragmatic but resilient constitution. A difficult balance will need to be struck but Sir Thomas and Lord Woolf are pre-eminently qualified by intellect and experience to play their part.

SPIRIT OF LIFE

'A sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind' (Acts ii, 2)

Of all the inadequate human analogies in which we speak of God's self-communication, word and breath are among the most significant. "Words are not things," wrote Coleridge. "they are the living educts of the imagination," the bearers of meaning through image and symbol. In the ancient Genesis creation story the living word of God is powerful and creative, yet that same story begins with a mighty wind sweeping over the water of chaos, bringing form and order. And in the creation of Adam it is God breathing into man the breath of life that makes him a living being. Words spoken are carried on breath, and without breath there is no life and no communication.

Pentecost — Whit Sunday — is the third great festival of the Christian year. As a Jewish festival it was the feast of the first fruits of the harvest; and in the Acts of the Apostles St Luke sees the explosion of the fire from Heaven and the rushing mighty wind as the birth of the Church, the first ingathering of the new community indwelt and empowered by the creator Spirit.

The word "spirit" is rooted in the sense of the ordering and transforming breath of life of the Creator. The people of ancient Israel saw the dancing whirlwinds wheeling across the desert, seeming to have a mysterious power of their own, catching dust and debris into their spiralling life. They spoke of the *ruach* or mighty wind of God, powerful, unseen, and life-giving, like our human breathing.

In St John's Gospel this new life of God is given to the Christian community on the evening of Easter Day, when Jesus breathes on His disciples with the words "Receive Holy Spirit — receive the breath of living holiness": an act of new creation as powerful

as God breathing life into Adam. In Luke's account the wind from Heaven and the tongues of flame, of purifying fire, enable new language, new communication, a new community, so reversing the divided babel of languages of the Tower of Babel.

Spirit and letter, inspiration and institution, order and energy, are often held in tension with each other. Yet in speaking of God's own being, Christians have spoken of God as Word and Spirit. The history of the Church is marked by charismatic revivals, when claims to special inspiration, prophetic gifts and new life exist in tension with institution and order. The 12th-century abbot, Joachim of Fiore, looked for a time when the institutional Church of Peter would be replaced by the spiritual Church of John. In the 18th century Joseph Butler, the philosopher Bishop of Bristol, rebuked John Wesley in well-known words: "Sir, pretending to extraordinary revelations and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, is a horrid thing, a very horrid thing." Yet the order, ministry and sacraments of the Church are only by and in the power of the Spirit and the Spirit's gift is the enabling of communion, the deep belonging-togetherness which is the root of all human community and communication.

It is the transforming gift of the Spirit which creates the true human community for which we long, and the fruits of the Spirit, of this new life of God, are "love, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering and gentleness". Without these the human community cannot exist and no society can endure. Pentecost is the celebration of the divine grace from which these gifts spring, and a reminder that the Church of God, for all its failings, is a divine society and not simply a human institution.

MANNERS FROM HEAVEN

Our rough age needs to polish its behaviour

"Manners are not idle," wrote Alfred Lord Tennyson, "but the fruit of loyal nature and of noble mind." Yet society has slithered since those more sedate times when structures stood as stiffly as the footman at the door, and nannies forged standards in the smithy of the soul.

This week the Social Affairs Unit published a book of essays — *Gentility Recalled* — which lament the arrival of our more churlish age. There has been a decline in civility, restraint and order in Britain, which threatens our society perhaps even more than crime. In a loutish modern culture which trembles with road rage, where values are defaced by vandalism and decorum is drowned out by the hooligan's roars, our children are learning the brutishness of an uncivilised world. "Respect" nowadays is just slang for a craven submission to the leader of the pack.

Manners should not be confused with etiquette, with the social snobbery which mistakes sophistication for moral worth. It matters little how you eat your artichoke, or if you crook your finger as you sip your tea. Etiquette — as complicated as a cotillion — is a form of exclusion. Manners are simply a way of including people. They are the oil which lubricates the mechanism of society.

It was an act of grace and diplomacy when Queen Victoria followed in the footsteps of a guest's *faux pas* and drank from her finger bowl to set him at ease.

Much of the blame for the erosion of our standards is laid at the door of the Sixties when the postwar baby boom entered puberty *en masse*. Adolescence is not renowned for its social grace. Self-expression shouldered consideration aside. A glimpse of stocking need not be shocking, but aggressive feminism has enfeebled traditional respect for women. With the subsequent flourishing of a technological age the young learnt new skills which superseded those of the past. The elderly became obsolete. And this ethos split over into the moral domain. Now age shrinks by on the sidewalk of life.

But manners maketh man. They lead in society to a predictability of response upon which the foundations of order are built. They are moulded within the family structure. They cannot simply be explained to children, but must be taught by example. It is only when manners become a more conscious concern that man will become again more manly. We should reach for a society where manners are as common as muck.

UK action on beef ban questioned

From Dr Anthony Glee

Sir, Before this country rushes headlong into a pointless confrontation with its fellow European nations, ought the Prime Minister not to reflect one last time both on the causes of the present crisis and the only way it can be resolved?

The Times reported on March 21 a new and threatening discovery in respect of a relationship between BSE and CJD. Dr John Pattison, chairman of the committee advising the Government on BSE, said he had never seen the variant before, and was quoted as saying: "It is totally unpredictable, but at one extreme there is a risk of an epidemic."

Dr Robert Will, head of the CJD surveillance centre, stated: "I believe this is a new phenomenon. There is reason for major concern." The trusted Times doctor reminded us that CJD was highly infectious, adding: "I shall in future avoid all beef, whether roasted or minced, until scientists can be truly reassuring."

Finally, your Science Editor spoke of "smoking gun" evidence that pointed to a link between BSE and CJD. He noted that the incubation period of the disease could last for decades, concluding: "If the new form of CJD follows this pattern, it will be almost the middle of the next century before we can be sure that no more new cases will emerge."

No wonder people are worried. At the heart of the beef crisis lies a fundamental lack of faith in the declarations of politicians. Four fifths of our beef exports go to other EU nations. EU consumers must be won over. This can be done only by telling the truth — and from within the European Union — respecting the justified fears of the consumer, whether German, Dutch or British. To paralyse the work of the Union will do nothing to whet their appetite for beef.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GLEE,
10 Hermes Road, Oxford.
May 24.

From Mr David Gladstone

Sir, How pleasing to find myself, for once, in full agreement with William Rees-Mogg ("Monty Python politics", May 23). And how dispiriting to find that this once great country is preparing to go to war under a banner inscribed TGS (tallow, gelatine and semen).

Has the Conservative Party, unlike our EU partners, learnt nothing from the history of the past 150 years? Are we for ever to be ruled by the ghosts of Lord Palmerston and jingoism as we march to the xenophobic drum-beat of Mrs Teresa Gorman and Mr John Townend? Have we lost all our equally traditional sense of the ridiculous? My worst fear is that Mr Major's posturing may appear to pay off, that a lifting of the ban on TGS, which was anyway on the cards, will be claimed as a triumph of gunboat diplomacy and that the Germans and others will overlook the insults being heaped on them and try to help us. There could be nothing more shameful than to be forgiven by the grown-ups across the Channel for our childish tantrums.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GLADSTONE,
1 Mountfort Terrace, NI.
May 23.

From Mr John Murray

Sir, I am appalled by your leader, "Bully for beef" (May 23), praising the Prime Minister for, in your view, enhancing his political prospects at home by playing fast and loose with Britain's interests in the EU. Lord Rees-Mogg, in the same issue, seems to me to be much closer to the mark when he describes the declaration of non-cooperation in Brussels as "a foreign policy scripted by Monty Python".

Let us forget the BSE problem arose here and must be resolved here. To use it as an issue with which to beat other member states, many of whom are suffering economic consequences quite as bad or worse than our own, is profoundly misguided.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MURRAY,
9 Cambridge Street,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
May 23.

From Mr Barry H. Cowell

Sir, For the Government to take "strike action" by withdrawing co-operation with the EU is to go against all its principles in negotiations, as it has so often maintained about trade unions.

I believe the EU should refuse to discuss the beef crisis until all threats are withdrawn.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY H. COWELL,
132 West Street, Deal, Kent.
May 24.

From Mr Michael J. Gordon

Sir, I suspect that Euro-realists now constitute a clear majority in the Cabinet, in the 1922 Committee and almost certainly in the country.

Surely this is now the time for Mr Major to call an early election with a manifesto committed to the renegotiation of our membership of the European Union.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. GORDON,
Risington Mill,
Little Risington, Gloucestershire.
May 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Bearing cost of church archaeology

From the Secretary of the Cathedrals and Churches Advisory Committee, English Heritage, and others

Sir, Your correspondence (May 2, 6, 16) about the cost of archaeological work on churches raises a number of issues.

It is now widely accepted that whenever possible the historic fabric, whether of churches or secular buildings, should be preserved. Archaeological evidence of the development of our civilisation often lies in and around standing buildings — and in the case of churches, witnesses to past worshippers and the development of the faith, which are surely a valid concern of modern congregations also.

But such evidence is fragile, easily damaged and, once damaged, irreplaceable. The worshipping community owes it to posterity to care for what survives. Where it is not appropriate to preserve, archaeological remains and deposits should be carefully investigated and recorded before destruction by new work.

Archaeology needs to be seen as an integral part of any development around a historic site. Indeed, if it is adequately considered in the first instance, the costs are likely to be less. Government and Church of England guidelines equally emphasise that archaeological issues should be taken into account at an early stage, in the later case with the help wherever possible of the diocesan archaeological adviser. The Church of England's desire to operate a statutory system that is

the equal of secular planning authorities" is fulfilled by the faculty conditions, which require watching briefs or archaeological work.

We are well aware that many parishes, like Charlbury in Oxfordshire (letter, May 2), are hard pressed financially, and we sympathise with the many demands with which they have to deal. English Heritage's resources are limited, but it can, in certain circumstances, help financially and the Heritage Lottery Fund may also be able to help.

Clearly, though, the situation is unsatisfactory for parishes, archaeologists and indeed the future study of our rich ecclesiastical heritage, and the funding of archaeology in churches in use is currently being discussed by national bodies such as ourselves.

Charlbury church is probably an Anglo-Saxon minster church, possibly originating in the 7th century. The archaeological costs to the parishioners were less than 1 per cent of the total, which is surely not too high a price to pay for greater knowledge of a building of such historic significance.

Yours etc,
PAULA GRIFFITHS,
Secretary, Cathedrals and Churches Advisory Committee, English Heritage,
THOMAS COCKE
(Secretary,
Council for the Care of Churches),
RICHARD MORRIS
(Director, Council for British Archaeology),
English Heritage,
23 Savile Row, W1.
May 17.

Space programme

From the Chairman of the United Kingdom Industrial Space Committee

Sir, Your article on Britain's space programme (Interface, May 15) correctly identified Britain's failure to participate in the Ariane 5 development as a missed commercial opportunity. However, both the quoted phrases which you highlight need to be challenged.

To claim that "the space industry in Britain is a myth" is absurd. For instance, the recent launch of the Inmarsat-3 spacecraft carried into orbit the electronics, designed and manufactured in the UK, which will provide communications with aircraft and other mobile users throughout the world, and most of the world's civilian aircraft use UK equipment to provide inflight communications via satellites

such as Inmarsat-3.

Equally absurd is the claim that "there is a lack of vision in Britain". The European Space Agency recently solicited ideas from throughout Europe as to the science missions it should undertake next. UK scientists provided more acceptable ideas than their counterparts in any other European country.

Whether for broadcasting, communications, remote sensing or weather forecasting, the UK is the leading operational user of space facilities and services in Europe. Let's not sell ourselves short.

Yours faithfully,
P. NORRIS (Chairman),
United Kingdom Industrial Space Committee,
c/o Logica UK Ltd,
74 Portsmouth Road,
Cobham, Surrey.
May 20.

Road rage

From Dr Rajat Roy

Sir, I have identified three reasons, in descending order, why I am often the victim of road rage (report, May 20): I obey the Highway Code, especially speed limits; I offer no aggression when confronted; and I am of an ethnic minority.

Is it not true mobile road patrols or wardens, distinct from the police patrols, were established to deal with this menace and with other constant infringements of the Highway Code?

Yours sincerely,
R. N. ROY,
7 Menzies Drive, Finty, Central.
May 22.

RNLI tribute

From Mrs Dorothy A. Branco

Sir, Yesterday in London I attended the annual ceremony at which Royal National Lifeboat Institution awards for gallantry are presented to members of lifeboat crews (Court Circular, May 17).

After receiving their awards from the Duke of Kent, four young men, neat in their dark uniforms, sat quietly together on the platform while 2,000 people rose to their feet, as one, to applaud seamanship, skill and bravery which had been described to us as "nothing short of outstanding".

A total of eight lives had been saved by these men, at risk to their own lives and for no financial reward or pay-

ment, their sole motivation being their anxiety to be of assistance to their fellow human beings.

The RNLI is known to most of us, but perhaps at times we take this splendid body of individuals for granted. At a time when our daily lives are burdened with news of murder, rape, terrorism, greed and self-interest it is most comforting to realise that, while such occasions as yesterday remain possible, we may preserve the hope that Man, for all his grievous shortcomings, will never entirely disgrace himself.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY A. BRANCO,
11 Springfield Court,
Lynton Road, W3.
May 17.

I remain calmly yours,
BRENDA J. CHOAK,
Moorlees House,
Golf Links Road,
Yelverton, Devon.
May 22.

Directory changes

From Mr Stewart G. Birt

Sir, New editions of the telephone directory for the North East of Scotland were issued last week. The areas of coverage have been significantly changed.

If you are located in rural areas of Aberdeenshire your directory no longer covers residential numbers in Aberdeen city and vice versa. This will inevitably lead to the increased cost of having to use directory inquiries for numbers which are actually local.

The reason given by BT was to reduce the size of the directory for our convenience, but the previous edition was already small because of the area's relatively low population.

Is this BT's latest way of increasing charges to its customers?

Yours faithfully,
STEWART G. BIRT,
Beachwood, Woodhead,
Fyvie, nr Turriff,
Aberdeenshire.
May 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Somerset House

From Mr J. D. Rimington

Sir, It is not refreshing that Somerset House still serves the useful purposes for which it was designed (article, May 11; letters, May 16), and preferable that it should continue to do so rather than be turned into some kind of museum — or, heaven help us, a mayoral palace?

I myself joined the Civil Service nearly forty years ago with a view that the profession of government is one of the most necessary and honourable of occupations, and can see no reason why it should not be honourably housed in this as in every previous era.

On the reasoning advanced by your chorus of correspondents, should we not turn the lawyers out of the Temple (which they originally usurped) to make a promenade, or the clergy and their choir-stalls out of St Paul's, the better to admire Wren's spatial dexterities?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RIMINGTON,
9 Highbury Hill, N5.
May 16.

Weekend Money letters, page 35

Rights of Kalahari Bushman people

From Dr Virginia Luling

Sir, How to help indigenous peoples? Bruce Anderson's remarkable article, "We succour Bushmen at their peril" (May 18), in contrast with your reasonable and sympathetic editorial on the same day, proposes that the Bushmen of Botswana must be forcibly kept in ignorance of the resources and comforts of the "modern world" — on the assumption that once this dangerous knowledge leaks out (or in) they will all drop their bows and arrows and go rushing to town.

It may be that Mr Anderson's tongue was in his cheek, but his depiction of the splendours and miseries of Bushman life is 30 years or more out of date.

Most of the Bushman people in the central Kalahari today have a mixed production system: they do some limited foraging; they also raise livestock (mainly goats) and plant various crops. The community settlement of Dade in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve — which the authorities want to move outside it — has a school, a health post, a general store and a tribal police office.

The Central Kalahari has been serviced regularly by the district council from Ghanzi and the Botswana Government's Remote Area Development Program since the 1970s, and water has been available since 1962.

Many of the men in the reserve have worked either in the mines or in the farms and towns of Botswana and South Africa. Some of them have been in the military and work for government. For good or ill, they are in touch with our world. An anthropologist friend tells me how last year an elderly Bushman, while busy putting poison on an arrow, asked him whether he believed O. J. Simpson was guilty. Identity is not the same thing as isolation. The people of the central Kalahari want such things as water and health care, but they want them where they live; and there is no serious reason why they should not have them.

What they, and the West Papuans and the Aboriginal people of Australia and the rest, need and have a right to is not to remain in some impossible pristine state, but to live in their own country and to have as much say in their own destiny as the rest of us.

Yours sincerely,
VIRGINIA LULING
(Africa Campaigns Officer),
Survival,
11-15 Emerald Street, WCI.
May 23.

Paedophile jailing

From Major C. V. Wright (ret'd)

Sir, In today's Times you report that Mr Justice Curtis congratulated an acting detective inspector for not physically attacking a suspect he was questioning.

Can this really be true?

Yours faithfully,
C. V. WRIGHT,
South View, Hunton,
Bedale, North Yorkshire.
May 17.

Dear little B-cup

From Mr Neil Wright

Sir, Like Miss Marie Helvin (Diary, May 17), I too can vouch for the efficacy of rugby socks as an improvement to the bustline.

As a boy soprano in the chorus of a production of *HMS Pinafore* at a single-sex school in the 1950s I and my companions were advised by our lady choreographer that such an addition to our costume would be a welcome aid to the illusion of our being "sisters, cousins and aunts".

However I doubt whether Miss Helvin could lay claim, as we could, to having actually played rugby in them the same day, before using them for their secondary purpose.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL WRIGHT,
Bakers, 14 Adderley Street,
Uppingham, Rutland, Leicestershire.
May 17.

From Mr J. B. H. Byfield

Sir, Those of us with strong nautical connections may share my curiosity that former model Marie Helvin uses "red and green socks" to provide additional marmosy support. May we be assured that Ms Helvin uses these aids correctly — ie, red for port and green for starboard?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BYFIELD,
2 Willow Farm,
Yemminster, Sherborne, Dorset.
May 17.

Fortunes of war

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, So Napoleon lost the Battle of Waterloo because his artillery got bogged down in mud caused by a volcano explosion in Indonesia, and failed to arrive in time (report, later editions, May 21).

Well, hard cheese; or as the French have it, *c'est la guerre*. It was also jolly unsporting of Wellington to have taken advantage by occupying the high ground.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
13 Lynwood Road, Ealing, W5.
May 21.

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY HYSON

Dorothy Hyson, film and stage star, and widow of the Shakespearean actor Sir Anthony Quayle, died on May 23 aged 81. She was born on December 24, 1914.

ON THEIR first introduction in 1936, Anthony Quayle considered Dorothy Hyson "the most beautiful creature I had ever seen". That first reaction, which was to develop into one of the great love stories of the modern British theatre, had been internationally endorsed three years earlier, when Cary Grant hailed her as "the world's new sweetheart". Hyson's perfect heart-shaped face, vivid cornflower-blue eyes and translucent halo of blonde hair also inspired Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart to write the song *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*. For a time, Hyson's looks confined her to ingénue territory, but in the title role of John Gielgud's definitive 1945 production of *Lady Windermere's Fan*, she ultimately became the quintessential Wildean heroine.

Born in Chicago, Dorothy Wardell Heisen was the only child of the American-born beauty and musical comedy star Dorothy Dickson and her husband, Carl Constantine Heisen, who changed his name to Carl Hyson and became America's foremost exponent of ballroom dancing. She made her acting debut aged three at Paramount's *Long Island Studios* in the 1917 silent film *Money Mad* (later known as *Paying the Piper*) as the child of a headstrong heiress, played by her mother. Historic ability was evident even at that age. The film's director, George Fitzmaurice, found that he could get her to sob and cry on cue merely by speaking to her severely.

In 1921 her parents settled in Britain, where they subsequently separated and divorced. Dorothy Dickson's gigantic success in the title role of Jerome Kern's musical, *Sally*, made her London's highest-paid star, and "Little Dot", as she was known in the family, was sent to a preparatory boarding school, Godstone at High Wycombe, and then as a boarder to the girls' public school Westonbirt in Gloucestershire.

She made two appearances on the London stage as a child: as Patty in J.M. Barrie's *Quality Street* at the Savoy Theatre in 1927, and at the Strand in 1928 as Ethel Monticue in *Daisy Ashford's The Young Visitors*, in which her performance caused James Agate to hail her as "the comedienne of the future". Sybil Thormdike agreed. "She's got it, hasn't she?" she said to Dorothy Dickson. "She's going to be a star."

After a year at the Paris finishing school of Madame de Landelles, Hyson made her adult London debut at 18 at the Playhouse Theatre as Gladys Cooper's daughter in Ivor Novello's comedy *Fires in the Sun*. She was bewildered to find herself wildly applauded on her entrance, largely because her celebrated mother was watching from the royal box. But being a star's daughter did not assist her debut in sound films with Cicely Courtneidge in the 1933 musical *Soldiers of the King*. Courtneidge's husband, Jack Hulbert, who was choreographing, was "brutal" on



learning that Hyson had no idea how to perform an *adagio* dance. "Well, you'll just have to get on with it," he snapped.

Her appearance with Boris Karloff and Ralph Richardson in the early horror film *The Ghoul* brought her to the attention of American cinema-makers but she disliked Hollywood and resolved never to work there. Instead, she appeared at the Westminster Theatre in Maxwell Anderson's comedy *Saturday's Children* and joined Jack Buchanan and Elsie Randolph in the British musical film, *That's A Good Girl*.

Her captivating charm in the film of Ben Travers's *Alfresco* farce, *Turkey Time*, as the wistful petteite fought over by Tom Walls and Ralph Lynn, led to a two-year contract with one of Britain's top directors, Basil Dean, who overworked her disastrously. In May 1934 Hyson was appearing nightly with Flora Robson in Dottie Smith's West End play *Touch Wood* under Dean's direction, and simultaneously filming for him during the day on location in *Blackpool* in the Grace Clegg film *Sing As We Go*. Exhausted by lack of sleep, long train journeys and Dean's bullying, Hyson suffered a severe nervous breakdown. She was replaced by the then unknown Margaret Lockwood as Annie Ridd in Dean's film of *Lorna Doone*.

Freed from Dean's autocratic domination, Hyson recovered to star in the musical film *Happy* as the blonde beauty with whom Stanley Lupino falls in love at first sight in a nightclub. She then rejoined Tom Walls and Ralph Lynn in a second screen version of a Ben Travers *Alfresco* farce *A Cup of Kindness*, followed by a West End role opposite Laurence Olivier in *The Ringmaster*, directed by Raymond Massey.

In 1935, at the age of 20, she married the British film and stage actor Robert Douglas, with whom she made her Broadway debut four months later in John Van Druten's short-lived comedy *Most of the Game*. Back in London in 1936, she appeared with Celia Johnson in the stage dramatisation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, playing Jane Bennet. Also in the cast was Anthony Quayle, then married to the actress Hermione Hannon. Quayle was dazzled by Hyson's beauty but believed her to be happily married. In fact, her marriage to Douglas, of which her mother had deeply disapproved, had been a failure from the start.

Before she met Quayle again, Hyson starred in four West End plays: with Basil Radford in *To Have and to Hold*; with Margaret Rutherford in *The Melody That Got Lost*; with René Ray in *Three Blind Mice*

and with Ann Todd in *She, Too, Was Young*. It was the casting of Hyson's close friend, Vivien Leigh, as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind*, that indirectly brought Quayle back into her life in 1939. Hyson replaced Leigh as Titania in Tyrone Guthrie's Old Vic production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, opposite John Mills as Puck. Quayle was not in the cast but was also working at the Old Vic. There he saw Hyson again, standing at the stage door, and "stood transfixed" by her "beauty combined with a radiant lightness of heart... there and then I fell totally in love".

Still believing her to be happily married, he made no declaration and left for the Old Vic tour. Hyson meanwhile played Dame Irene Vanbrugh's daughter in *Only Yesterday* at the Playhouse, and a month after the outbreak of war, she joined Michael Wilding and Mary Malcolm in the revue *Let's Face It*. Hyson, like her mother, was devoid of conceit about her beauty. When Quayle did at last tell her that he loved her, she refused to take him seriously, but he felt certain enough to set in motion divorce proceedings against his wife.

Hyson's career as a star continued to bloom. In December 1939 she played Liberty in the musical *Who's Taking Liberty* at the Whitehall Theatre, followed by a comedy, *Blue Goose*, directed by Cecil Parker. Returning to films, she co-starred with Robert Morley in *You Will Remember* in 1940, and in 1941 in *Spare a Copper*, as the sweetest of George Formby, who tried unsuccessfully to seduce her between takes while his wife was absent. Another West End comedy, *Under One Roof*, followed at the St Martin's Theatre in 1941, and then Hyson had her greatest success on the London stage, as Emily Strachan in Roland Pertwee's satirical thriller *Pink String and Teal Wax* which ran for more than a year.

At the Lyric Theatre in 1944, she played opposite Dennis Price in *Scandal at Barchester*, adapted from the novels of Anthony Trollope, and as the war ended, Hyson starred at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, in the title role of John Gielgud's celebrated production of Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Her beauty, rendered even more vivid by the *fin de siècle* splendour of Cecil Beaton's gowns and sets, packed the theatre for 602 performances.

During her run as Lady Windermere, Robert Douglas, from whom Hyson had separated during the war, divorced her. Quayle had persisted in his courtship for eight years, but she had rejected so many proposals that he feared "my destiny was slipping away from me". When he fell ill with influenza, however, it at last brought Hyson to the realisation "that I cared for you more than anyone in the world". They were married on June 3, 1947.

Hyson was still in demand for film and stage roles, but after her marriage to Quayle, she rejected every offer, feeling that she could not successfully combine her career as a star with her responsibilities as wife and mother. Although never outwardly domi-

nating, Hyson's influence over her husband was total. It was her continuing dislike of Hollywood that caused Quayle to reject an MGM film contract in 1948 in favour of the directorship of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon. During Quayle's eight years as director at Stratford, Hyson became a theatrical hostess of formidable discernment. It was at her suggestion that, in 1951, the young Richard Burton played Prince Hal to Quayle's Falstaff at Stratford. Even when the critics, many members of the company and Quayle himself remained unconvinced of Burton's potential, Hyson continued to insist that he would become a major star.

Hyson's marriage to Quayle endured for 42 years and developed a strength that went far beyond their romantic courtship. In 1957, when Quayle appeared with Anna Neagle in the film *The Man Who Wouldn't Talk* his other leading lady, Zsa Zsa Gabor, fell in love with "his big round, lovable boyish face". Hyson, by remaining calm and keeping her sense of humour, averted a possible crisis. Many years later, when Gabor sent roses to Quayle's funeral with a note saying she would never forget him, Hyson reacted without concern. "She was rather amusing," she said of Gabor.

Hyson's beauty, which lasted into old age, was still strikingly evident in the 1977 *This Is Your Life* television tribute to Quayle, who had been appointed a Commander of the British Empire in 1952 and was knighted in 1985. In 1989 he was diagnosed as suffering from cancer of the abdomen and told he had only a few months to live. During his final crisis, Hyson was again a tower of strength, helping him to complete his memoirs, *A Time to Speak*, in which he wrote of his wife: "Without her I could have been nothing, done nothing." He died on October 20, 1989, with Hyson at his side.

In widowhood, despite increasing health problems, Hyson continued to play an active role in theatrical life. In 1993 she hosted a performance celebrating the life of Dame Peggy Ashcroft at the Playhouse Theatre, where she had made her first adult appearance in 1933, and sat in the same box her mother had occupied six years earlier to watch her debut.

The death of Hyson's mother, the legendary Dorothy Dickson, in 1995, at the age of 102, brought tributes pouring in from all over the world, including a long personal letter from Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Dickson's closest friend for 72 years.

On January 28 of this year, Lady Quayle's devoted secretary, Diana Cooke, found her lying in the bedroom of her house in Elystan Place, Chelsea. She had suffered a stroke. During a long and gruelling final illness, she displayed indomitable courage and never lost the charm that had endeared her to everyone who knew her.

There were no children by her first marriage but she is survived by her son and two daughters from her marriage to Anthony Quayle, the younger of whom is the West End stage actress, Jenny Quayle.

DR TERENCE BAIRD

Dr Terence Baird, CB, Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland, 1972-78, died on May 18 aged 79. He was born on May 31, 1916.



TERRY BAIRD played a leading role in preparing the medical services in Northern Ireland to cope with a quarter-century of bloodshed. He enacted a disaster policy which ensured that hospitals could deal with large-scale emergencies and that those in centres such as Belfast and Londonderry had specialist units for treating the most seriously injured.

Baird also helped to set up a prison medical service and insisted on a strict code of medical ethics. All prisoners were his patients and as such should be treated humanely, without prejudice. This policy he maintained throughout hunger strikes and "dirty" protests - during which he advised a succession of government ministers.

He once volunteered to enter a sealed room in which a container of CS gas was released, in order to determine its impact on future victims. His verdict: extremely unpleasant but no lasting damage.

At the same time he had to care for the wider public. He set up a medical advisory service with a central committee and smaller bodies of experts, to ensure that he and Whitehall had the best advice. By background and inclination a clinician, as opposed to a medical bureaucrat or accountant, he contributed himself to medical knowledge. The "Baird Report" on infant mortality, the product of a committee which he chaired, is still regarded as having seminal value. He was a notable chairman of committees. Held in equal esteem was the book on infection in hospitals which Baird published with others 25 years ago.

Born Thomas Terence Baird in Londonderry, son of the Archdeacon of Derry, he crossed the Irish Sea to go to school at Haileybury before returning to read medicine at Queen's University, Belfast. A first-class oarsman, he rowed for Haileybury and was captain of boats at Queen's.

When war broke out, Baird was a houseman at the North Lonsdale Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness. In 1940, however, he was commissioned as a surgeon-lieutenant into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He nearly lost his life in the same year, while serving in the destroyer *HMS Sturdy*. After being on convoy duties in the Atlantic, the warship was returning at night to her home port, Londonderry, when

heavy seas and southwesterly gales took her seriously off course.

Mistaking a lighthouse off Scotland for one of the north coast of Ireland, the navigating officer ordered "full steam ahead" for the Foyle Estuary. Minutes later the ship crashed onto rocks near Tiree, Scotland. Several sailors lost their lives while the remains of *Sturdy* are still beached there. Baird was rescued from the wreck by breeches buoy and went on to serve in the carrier *Victorious* in the Pacific and Indian Oceans before being demobilised as a lieutenant-commander.

After returning to Queen's to take a diploma in public health, he started his career with Berkshire County Council as assistant medical officer, leaving as deputy principal schools medical officer in 1954. For the following eight years he was in Cardiff, rising to become senior medical officer with the Welsh Board of Health before returning to his native Northern Ireland in 1962. He became Chief Medical Officer ten years later and was appointed CB in 1977.

On retiring in 1978, Baird settled in the large house and grounds beside the sea in Donegal which he had inherited from an uncle 16 years previously. Apart from a short consultancy in the Isle of Man he devoted much of his time there to his private forest. He and his wife had planted 16 acres of trees in the 1960s and he saw them grow from a height of 18 inches to 30 feet. But he also had five acres of grass to mow.

Baird continued to row until six months ago in his own wooden boat on Lough Foyle. An outgoing personality, he was immensely popular in Ireland. He never complained throughout his battle against cancer. To all who asked how he was coping he cheerfully replied: "Motoring on." After the death of his first wife Joan, Baird married again. He is survived by his second wife Jane and by two daughters of his first marriage.

WILLI DAUME

Willi Daume, sports administrator, died on May 17 aged 82. He was born on May 24, 1913.

The life of Willi Daume, devoted to German and Olympic sports administration, was one of noble objectives and frustrated personal ambition. Daume was the mainspring behind the magnificent Olympic Games of Munich in 1972, which were grotesquely over-

shadowed by the Israeli team massacre. He subsequently failed in his attempt to become president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) eight years later.

Having neglected the iron company which he owned, Eisler-Daume, which went bankrupt a few years ago, Daume died penniless. He was supported only by donations from major sports sponsors and an honorarium from

the German National Olympic Committee (NOC), of which he had been president from 1961 to 1992.

There are few in the history of the Olympic Games who have worked so diligently, so long and with such altruism for the benefit of sport. Daume had been a member of the German basketball team at the Berlin Olympics of 1936. After the war it was Daume more than anyone who

reorganised sport in what had become West Germany.

From 1949 to 1971 he was president of the German Sports Confederation, and it was from his joint position as president of the NOC that he conceived the plan to host the Games of 1972. Having been elected a member of the IOC in 1956, he persuaded that body to grant the Games to Munich at a meeting in Rome in 1966. It was an act of

international forgiveness. He had fulfilled the maxim by which he lived: "Ich liebe die grossen Entwürfe" (I love the grand designs).

His reward, and that of Germany, was to be humiliation. The futuristic design of Munich's new stadiums, still spectacular 25 years later, together with a new underground railway and village, provided an inspiring stage for the most modern Games yet conceived. But the mood of celebration was shattered on the morning of September 6, with the Arab terrorist assault on the Israeli headquarters, and the subsequent death of all hostages. Daume's reputation was further harmed by his unwitting announcement to a late evening emergency session of the IOC that all were safe (he had been given false information). With a broken heart, he organised a memorial service for the victims in the main stadium the following day.

More ill-fortune was in store for Daume. When Montreal, the host city for 1976, seemed likely to default because of construction

strikes, corruption and inflation, Daume devised a plan in private discussion with Lord Killanin, the IOC president, for transferring events to Germany and Holland. It proved premature, and did little to rescue Daume's reputation.

Killanin resigned after eight years in 1980, just before Moscow's Olympics, leaving Daume as one of four candidates for the succession. Although he considered himself unlikely to win, he thought he was a strong runner. Again he was humiliated. He received only seven votes out of 79 in a first-round ballot, which elected Juan Antonio Samaranch by an overall majority of 14 over James Worrall, Marc Hodler and Daume.

A further project which he organised, the IOC Congress of 1981 at Baden Baden - the occasional meeting of the three arms of the Olympics: the IOC, Sports Federations and NOCs - was diminished in significance because of the exclusion of those countries which had boycotted Moscow. In 1987 Daume launched his last grand idea: the hosting of



the Millennium Games of 2000 by Berlin, to aid the reunification of the two Germanies. Subsequently, the Wall came down, Germany was politically reunited, and the Berlin bid lost its *raison d'être*, disintegrating in mismanagement. It was eliminated in the second ballot before Sydney's election by two votes over Peking.

The lasting contribution of Daume, however, will be from his tireless work, as chairman

of the Eligibility Commission, to redefine the IOC's stance on amateurism. By the 1970s the Olympics were dominated by totalitarian state-sponsored teams, who were wholly professional in preparation, amateur only by false declaration. There had to be an adjustment. Samaranch demanded. Daume himself was irritated with the perverse attitude of Avery Brundage, then IOC president, when the latter inspected the Munich village in 1972. Brundage had protested at every airline bag or sponsored track suit of Western teams, while accepting uncritically every commercial aspect of East German and Soviet teams.

It was Daume's patient campaigning among colleagues at the sessions of 1985 to 1987 that helped finally to persuade the IOC to accept an open Olympics. It was the only logical conclusion for a situation already informally long in practice and it was Daume's final service to the IOC, for which he was vice-president from 1972 to 1975.

He leaves a widow, Rosemarie, a son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

GIFTS

A BIRTHDAY Newspaper, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 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NEWS

Police raid football hooligans

Northumbria police struck the opening blow yesterday against football hooligans planning to disrupt Euro 96, with co-ordinated raids leading to 19 arrests and the seizure of weapons and inflammatory literature.

Other police forces will carry out similar operations in the next few weeks after months of intelligence-gathering and analysis of violence during last season's football matches. Page 1

Crime check for job applicants

Employers are to have access to job applicants' criminal records under proposals to be outlined in a White Paper aimed at providing greater protection to the public. An independent agency would manage access to the records. Page 1

New top judge

A shake-up of civil and criminal justice was heralded by the announcement that Sir Thomas Bingham is to be the next Lord Chief Justice. Pages 1, 18, 21

Joker in the pack

Peter Mandelson, scourge of many traditional socialists, has found a new popularity among old Labour as the joker in the pack. Page 1

Hogg at bay

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, admitted that he could lose his job over his handling of the beef crisis. Page 2

'Road rage' beating

An ex-serviceman with cancer was dragged from his car and beaten mercilessly during a "road rage" attack by three men. Page 3

Major in Bosnia

John Major visited Bosnia to gauge the success of the Dayton peace accords. Page 12

Toxic homes

Arsenic, lead and mercury have been found in concentrations up to 16 times the recommended safety level in dozens of back gardens in Oxford. Page 7

Islam warning

The West has too readily discounted the possibility of conflict with Islam, the Archbishop of Canterbury said. Pages 8, 15

Gun attack

A mentally ill young man became so obsessed with the Hungerford massacre that he shot 17 people in 20 minutes. Page 9

Trappists murdered

France reacted with shock to the murder of seven French Trappist monks by Islamic terrorists in Algeria. Page 13

Chechen meeting

President Yeltsin is to hold his first meeting with the leader of the Chechen rebels. Page 11

Lollipop lady on the mainline

A primary school lollipop lady in Brooklyn, New York, has been charged with selling heroin which was packaged to look like sweets. Amariles Martinez had 20 bags of heroin under her uniform when she was arrested. Page 12

NATURE NOTES

Giant Panderer
(*Mandatoris sententis*)
Adores captivity and loves to perform tricks before a large audience. Distinguished by two lovely black eyes, courtesy the judiciary.



Judging judges: If judges

choose to become more political, then they may undermine the foundation of their own independence. Page 19

Spirit of life: Pentecost is the celebration of the divine grace from which God's gifts spring, and a reminder that the Church of God, for all its failings, is a divine society and not simply a human institution. Page 19

Manners from heaven: There has been a decline in civility and order, which threatens our society perhaps even more than crime. Page 19

Simon Jenkins: Lord Taylor

of Gossforth, the retiring Lord Chief Justice, lays a charge against Michael Howard of plotting to subvert British justice. Both claim that public order is at stake. Page 18

Jonathan Mirsky: China's tradition prizes study; in the People's Republic actual learning is quite another thing. Page 18

Dorothy Hyson, stage star, and widow of Sir Anthony Quayle: Willi Daume, sports administrator. Page 21

Dancing delight: "Not every-

thing goes according to plan on the Royal Ballet's visit to Norway." Richard Morrison writes. Page 15

Screen to stage: *Calamity Jane* has gone on stage at Sadler's Wells, with Gemma Craven in the "Doris Day" role; at the Birmingham Rep, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* is staged. Page 15

Prime Minister's non-co-operation policy on beef: costs of church archaeology; Botswana Bushmen. Page 19

Wise man: Patrick Minford,

one of the Treasury's six "wise men", has been retained to advise on an international money-making scheme described in Parliament as "an iniquitous pyramid-selling scam". Page 23

Revolt: HSBC Holdings, the parent company of Midland Bank and First Direct, faces a shareholder revolt over bonus payments. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 5.1 to close at 3752.1. The sterling index rose to 84.9 after a fall to 81.517 but a rise to DM2.3321. Page 24

Golf: Nick Faldo recorded

a five-under-par 67 to lead the field in the first round of the PGA Championship at Wentworth. Page 44

Football: Gianluca Vialli, the captain of Juventus, has joined Chelsea on a contract said to be worth £3 million. Page 44

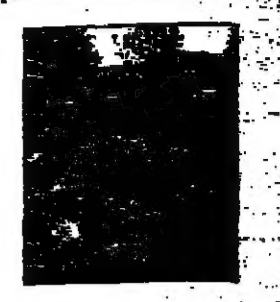
Racing: Willie Carson indicated that he will retire from a 35-year riding career at the end of the Flat season. Page 44

MAGAZINE

Royal roadshow: Sarah Bradford on the highway to hell. Page 8
Uprising sons: Japan's uncertain youth. Page 24

WEEKEND

Beat the janes: Cities of pleasure. Pages 1, 2



Books: Michael Shea: Bill Fitzhugh; Michael Black; Josephine Hart and Alan Garner. Pages 12, 15

10 15

Good as gold: Anna Reeder, the 16-year-old gymnast heading for the Olympics. Page 6

VISION

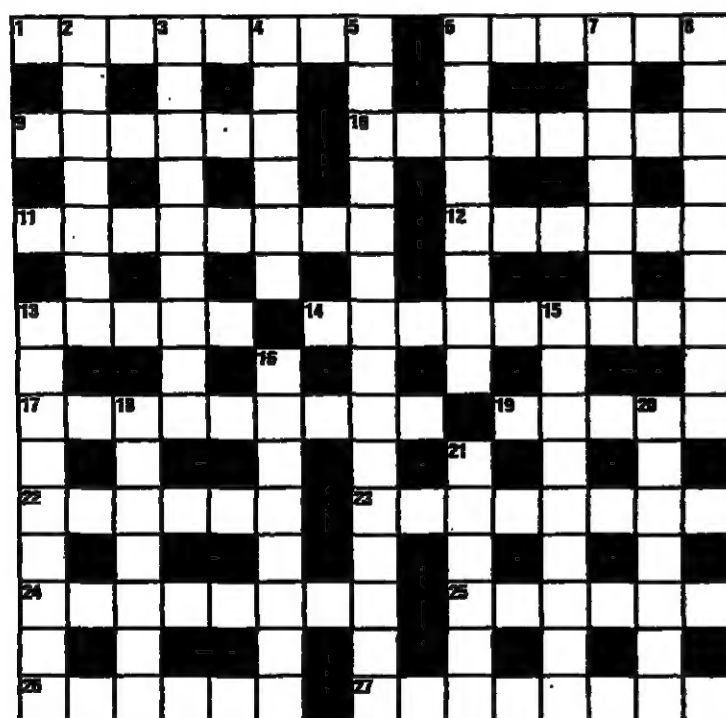


Who's Who? Paul McGann as the new Doctor, Bank Holiday Monday and located in San Francisco - BBC1, 8.30pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,177

ABERLOUR A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- Typed, for instance, by kind journalist (6)
 - Foundation among those producing better figures? (6)
 - Harmonised arrangement for spinet (2,4)
 - Sort of table where opening of pepper cruet is broken (8)
 - One who provides weapons a soldier's given by our monarch (8)
 - Getting purple after exercises for addition to waistline (6)
 - Cry of rook chasing mother bird (5)
 - Makers of ark animal almost bolts into (9)
 - It offers a great deal to Sibyl the tourist (9)
 - Royal Lad turns back, surrounded by unusually large fences (5)
 - Head's ascent backs early learning department initially (6)
 - The wife's a fussy person (3,5)
 - The bottom line in his business is difficult to make out (8)
 - Sudden ludicrous descent from black mount (6)
 - Ignobly represent beginning and end of liberty (6)
- DOWN**
- Condemn assessment on former London district (8)
 - Having performed song, taken up for leonardo in tent? (7)
 - One whose fingers can handle frozen joints (9)
 - Grows smaller pig-like mammals, say (6)
 - One's vacation gets one off to a flying start (9,6)
 - Fawns around the king in soft-soled shoes (8)
 - Crushing remark from second master at Greyfriars (7)
 - For such clannish types, MOT test is absurd (9)
 - State incorrectly mare is fit for racing (9)
 - Tallboy, say, has got the beetle, possibly (3-6)
 - Why, say, a priest first slipped into bitterness (8)
 - Showy flower - stupid dog ate one (7)
 - Recite information from memory (4-3)
 - Some deed I bless - is it okay to scold? (6)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,171

SPRINGTIME YOGI
O A A T R N
P L A S T I C I N E K I E V
T R I E S G I
C O S T O R L I V I N G
S E N I N N I
T A L K A T I V E B R A I L
A E L N L T A
G U A R D J U D G M E N T
M E U M O E
C H A M B E R M U S I C
O R T L S N W E
C U K S H O T A N D C O L D
E U G E R G
H A T E A S C E N D A N C Y

Solution to Puzzle No 20,176

POSTSCRIPT MARG
O E A R A G O
F R A N C H I S E S B A B U
F O S S P O N
D C D I E M E
I N A U D I B L E P L I N Y
S P E A N O C M
G O I N G C I T Y S T A T E
U T R C H I S T I N
S N A K E C H A R M S L
I S I S I N C O N S T A N T
N S A T E S T O P
G A E L C L O S E D S H O P

For the latest region by region forecast, 24

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
West/Surrey/Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	704
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	705
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	706
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	707
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	708
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	709
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	710
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	727
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	728
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	729
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	730

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information,

Region	Forecast
Greater London	731
West/Surrey/Sussex	732
Devon & Cornwall	733
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	734
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	735
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	736
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	737
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	738
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	739
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	759
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	760

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information,

Region	Forecast
Greater London	761
West/Surrey/Sussex	762
Devon & Cornwall	763
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	764
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	765
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	766
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	767
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	768
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	769
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	788
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	789
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	790

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information,

Region	Forecast
Greater London	791
West/Surrey/Sussex	792
Devon & Cornwall	793
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	794
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	795
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	796
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	797
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	814
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	815
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	818
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	819
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	820

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information,

Region	Forecast
Greater London	821
West/Surrey/Sussex	822
Devon & Cornwall	823
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	824
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	825
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	826
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	843
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	844
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	845
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	846
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	847
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	848
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	849
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	850

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have sunny spells but also a few showers, tending to die out from the South West. There may be light rain or drizzle in the South West during the afternoon and perhaps over South Wales in the evening. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers. Temperatures will be generally a little below the seasonal average.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands: bright start, becoming cloudier with showers at times. Wind southwesterly, light to moderate. Max 17C (63F).

E England, W Midlands, Central N: bright start, cloud building with showers by later morning. Becoming mostly dry later. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 16C (61F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: showers, light rain later. Wind

AROUND BRITAIN

Region	Forecast
Greater London	851
West/Surrey/Sussex	852
Devon & Cornwall	853
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	854
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	855
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	856
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	857
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	858
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	880

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information,

Region	Forecast
Greater London	881
West/Surrey/Sussex	882
Devon & Cornwall	883
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	884
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	885
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	887
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	910

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information,

Region	Forecast
Greater London	911
West/Surrey/Sussex	912
Devon & Cornwall	913
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	914
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	915
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	916
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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks